

Courtroom Drama Role-play

Objective: Improving their public speaking skills through participation in a mock trial.

A mock trial has more to offer students than familiarity with court procedures. Playing roles in a mock trial requires students to speak clearly, logically and with conviction. They will need and develop confidence in their speaking abilities as they play formal roles in a mock court setting.

The prosecution and defense will be doing the most work at first. They will want to interview witnesses and prepare their opening and closing statements.

After everyone has spoken, the jury will deliberate. They will get the most speaking practice during this part, since they will need to review all the evidence. Once the jury has decided unanimously whether the defendants are guilty or innocent the jury foreperson will read the verdict. The judge closes the trial by announcing the conviction.

Vocabulary and Expressions:

Roles: defendant, prosecutor, judge, attorney, witness...

The Prosecutor's Statement

The Defendant's Statement

The Prosecutor Calls Witnesses (and defendants have an opportunity to cross-examine)

The Defense Calls Witnesses (and prosecution has an opportunity to cross examine)

The Prosecutor's Closing Statement

The Defendant's Closing Statement

Deliberation of the Jury

The Verdict

Swear an oath: "With your right hand raised, repeat after me: Do you solemnly **swear** to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

Offence, fine

Plea, plead

Innocence, innocent

Accusation, accuse

Charge, charge

Severity, severe

Trial try

Testimony, testify

Guilt, guilty

Evidence

Objection

Overruled: the judge, following an objection, decides the questions may continue.

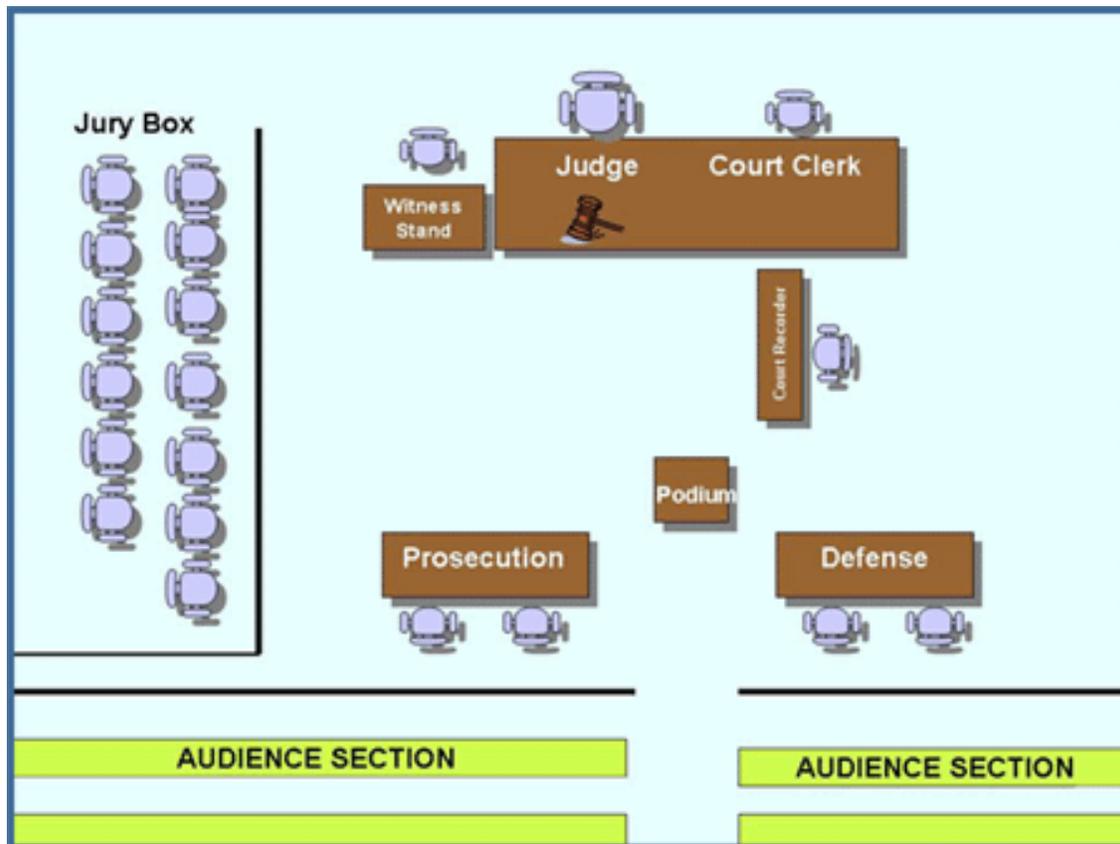
Sustained: the judge, following an objection, agrees that the line of questioning should not continue.

Have you reached a verdict?

We the jury find the defendant:

Your Honor
Bailiff
Mr., Mrs., etc.

Setting:



Roles:

Defendant (ACCUSED)

You are the defendant. You will have to tell the judge your name, age, job and your relationship to the plaintiff. You will have to give details of everything you remember about what happened on the day of the crime. You can also give any other information that might be relevant. You are allowed to speak to your lawyer and you may have to speak to the prosecution lawyer.

Plaintiff (ACCUSER)

You are the plaintiff. You will have to tell the judge your name, age, job and your relationship to the defendant. You will have to give details of everything you remember about what happened on the day of the crime. You can also give any other information that might be relevant. You are allowed to speak to your lawyer and you may have to speak to the defense lawyer.

Judge

You are the judge. You will have to give an opening speech, giving a brief description of the crime and the responsibility of the jury. You may talk to the lawyers before the trial. They will give you a list of all the witnesses. You will call the witnesses one by one during the trial. After the jury has given their verdict, you will declare the defendant guilty or not guilty. You will then pass sentence.

Defendant's friend

You are the defendant's friend. You will need to tell the judge your name, age, job and relationship to the plaintiff. You may also be asked about your relationship with the plaintiff. You will be asked questions by both the prosecution and the defense.

Plaintiff's friend

You are the plaintiff's friend. You will need to tell the judge your name, age, job and relationship to the defendant. You may also be asked about your relationship with the plaintiff. You will be asked questions by both the prosecution and the defense.

Defense lawyer

You are the defense lawyer. You want to win this case. You need to get as much information as you can. You need to make the plaintiff look bad in court by finding out negative facts about them. You need to find out good things about your client to make them look good in court.

Prosecution lawyer

You are the prosecution lawyer. You want to win this case. You need to get as much information as you can. You need to make the defendant look bad in court by finding out negative facts about them. You need to find out good things about your client to make them look good in court.

Jury

You are a member of the jury. You need to create a character for yourself. You will need to consider things like name, age, job, personality, hobbies and marital status. When you have heard all the evidence, you will have five minutes to decide with the other jury members if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.

Witness

You are a witness. You will need to tell the judge your name, age, job and relationship to the plaintiff/defendant. You may also be asked about your relationship with the defendant/plaintiff. You will be asked questions by both the prosecution and the defense.

18 Ss

1- Judge (1)

SERGIO 4

2- 3- Defense Attorneys (2)

Mom's = FELIPE 15

Dad's = JIMENA 11

4- Prosecutor (1)

CARLOS 3

5- 6- 7- 8- 9- Jury (5 cannot be an even #)

MONTERO 16

STEFAN 2

GABRIEL 18

REBECA 10

GLORIANA 14

10-11- Defendants (2)

ABEL 1

SHANARA 9

12 professional - 13- Witness for Prosecution (2)

AILEEN - Professional - Psychologist 13

JOSHUA - best friend 8

14 professional - 15- 16 professional - 17 - Witness Defendants (3)

FERNANDO - Professional for mom - School counselor 7

SOFIA - Mom's friend and neighbor 12

HIDALGO - Professional for dad - Psychiatrist 6

BRYAN - Dad's best friend 17

18- Plaintiff (1)

RANDALL 5