

Jury Trials in the Classroom

Grade levels: 7th-12th (credit offered for older students)

Teacher: Randi Leavy

Class Size: 22

Materials Needed: folder, notebook, pen

Outside Work: Students will be required to have a working understanding of the U.S. Court System, as well as the legal terminology that we will be used for the duration of the class. Students will need to study each case prior to the trial in order to develop specific strategies and questions for their part and their team.

Students who will be taking the class for credit will be tested on the following:

U.S. Court System

Legal Terminology

Criminal vs. Civil Proceedings

There will be a total of 2 papers due throughout the course of the year. Materials for research will be provided, available online or at your local library.

The Founding Father's viewpoints on The U.S. Judicial Branch

A Supreme Court Justice of their choice

Text vs. Precedent in Constitutional Law

or a paper on a topic approved by the teacher

Length of class: 1 semester

Description: Jury Trials in the Classroom will explore the inner workings of our legal system beginning with an overview of how the U.S. Court system is structured. We will lay a foundation for our “philosophy of the Judicial” by studying what our Christian Founding Father's had in mind when they instituted this branch of government in the Constitution.

Using these fundamentals, we will introduce legal terminology and trial process to be used during our class time. Students will learn how to analyze the elements of material & circumstantial evidence, as well as witness and expert testimony in each case. Every student will be given the opportunity to participate in the trial process in a way that is comfortable yet challenging for them, as they learn to think and reason through their arguments and testimony. Team building skills will be an integral part of our class time as every student's ideas are valued and necessary for their success.

My goal is to bring excitement with anticipation to our classroom by using a hands-on format which makes the U.S. trial process come alive. It is my contention, that when students participate in this type of hands on experience, it may serve as a possible directive and inspiration for their future.