

MOCK TRIAL SYLLABUS

Sessions 1 & 2: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm

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Description: students will participate in an interactive, team-based simulation where they role-play courtroom professionals like attorneys, witnesses, and bailiffs to argue a fictional legal case. They will learn about courtroom ethics, giving an opening statement, what the prosecution and defense do, how to weigh evidence, delivering a closing argument, and deciding a verdict. Roles played will be determined by the number of students participating. Students will build critical thinking, public speaking, and debate skills, and the course will culminate in a trial before volunteer judges.

Materials Needed:

- ☐ 3 Ring Binder (or portion of binder) dedicated to this class or spiral notebook and folder for handouts.
- ☐ Writing utensil

Expectations:

- * This is a hands-on class and **students will need to be in attendance in order to get the most out of it.**
- * **Be ready to participate!** Students will be role-playing, and will get out of this class what they put into it.
- * **Be respectful of each other.**

Course Outline

Class 1 — Aug 26 — Welcome. Case 1: Malcolm v. Utopia Zoo

Class 2 — Sep 2 — What is a trial?

Class 3 — Sep 9 — Direct examination + casting

Class 4 — Sep 16 — Evidence & objections

Class 5 — Sep 23 — Cross-examination

Class 6 — Sep 30 — Openings & closings/continue to fine-tune for trial

Class 7 — Oct 7 — Midterm scrimmage (rehearsal)

Full run-through of Zoo start to finish, no verdict, casual energy — everything from Classes 3–6 comes together for the first time!

— Session break Oct 12–16 —

Class 8 — Oct 21 — Case 2: Max Mayfield v. Benny's Burgers Corporation

Class 9 — Oct 28 — Casting + outline drafting begins

Class 10 — Nov 4 — Direct examination workshop

— Nov 11: no class (Veterans Day) —

Class 11 — Nov 18 — Cross-examination workshop

— Nov 25: no class (Fall Break) —

Class 12 — Dec 2 — Openings & closings + work time

Class 13 — Dec 9 — Final direct-only rehearsal + last polish

Class 14 — Dec 16 — THE TRIAL

Volunteer judge, parents invited, extended window. First time it runs as a real, full, adversarial trial!