



SATURDAY ENRICHMENT ONLINE SPRING 2022

Mock Trial

Instructor: Jennifer Stephens, MA, JD

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Course Description

This course focuses on developing critical thinking, argumentation, and public speaking skills, all within the context of the practice of law. To accomplish this aim, students will prepare for and conduct a mock trial.

Essential Questions

This class is driven by a series of questions:

- How do we use law and court procedure to administer justice in society?
- How does one apply argumentative skills to academic work and potential careers?
- How does one construct a concise speech to present their ideas and views in a way that is understandable and convincing to others?

Learning Outcomes

The main learning objective is for students to experience participating in a trial court proceeding. A secondary goal is to help students think critically about real life issues and feel comfortable speaking in public. By the end of this course, students will have a feel for legal practice, courtroom decorum, and elements of the U.S. justice system. Students will also have exposure to fundamental substantive areas of law, including civil/criminal procedure and federal rules of evidence.

Instructional Strategies

Throughout the course, students will study a scripted case scenario, cross examine student witnesses, introduce evidence, and provide opening and closing statements in a mock courtroom learning environment.

Resources and Materials

Students are encouraged to have a notebook and pen/pencil handy for taking notes during class. There is no required text. As we assign roles for trial, students are encouraged to prepare props and visual aids. I will keep you informed of these needs as they arise.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topics and Activities
Week 1 - April 2	Introduction and Roles of Advocate, Judge, and Jury Courtroom Map, Review of Basic Concepts
Week 2 - April 9	Roleplay of "Bargain" by A.B. Guthrie
Week 3 - April 16	Presentation of Case Facts and Witnesses Read through the case facts and outline witness strengths/weaknesses.
Week 4 - April 23	Cross-Examination Lesson: How to construct effective cross-examination questions
Week 5 - April 30	Opening and Closing Statements Selection of Mock Trial Roles
Week 6 - May 7	Evidence Part 1: Expert and Lay Witnesses Lesson: Qualifying witnesses and foundation building
Week 7 - May 14	Evidence Part 2: Relevancy and Introduction to Hearsay Lesson: Introduction of the Federal Rules of Evidence Hearsay examples and exceptions
Week 8 - May 21	2 Hour Trial and Course Conclusion Mock trial in session. Parents are welcome to attend.