

Sample Mock Trial Syllabus

Sept. 25

Introduction to Mock Trial; Student presentations/auditions

Homework: Students read case packet.

Oct. 2

Assign roles. Attorney Coach lecture: direct examination. Begin breakout sessions:

- Prosecution: (review elements of crimes, prosecution role, burden of proof, etc.)
- Defense: (review elements of crimes, defense role, casting doubt re: burden of proof, etc.)
- Pretrial: (review of pretrial roles for pros & def)

Homework: Students continue reading case packet. Attorneys prepare at least 5 direct examination questions. Pretrial attorneys summarize each case. Witnesses memorize facts.

Oct. 9

Breakout sessions: Direct Examination

Homework: Witnesses memorize facts. Pretrial attorneys continue to summarize cases. Attorneys work with witnesses on direct examination.

Oct. 16

Attorney Coach lecture: cross examination (10-15 min)

Breakout sessions: Brainstorm topics for cross examination & draft direct examination questions.

Pretrial: Discuss how legal authorities help or hurt each side and how to distinguish cases.

Homework: Attorneys prepare at least 5 cross examination questions for witness of your choice.

Pretrial: Read legal authorities related to pretrial argument. Identify how each case helps or hurts each side.

Oct. 23

Breakout sessions:

Prosecution & Defense: Work on cross examinations.

Pretrial: Discuss what facts are relevant to the “test” and how to use them in pretrial argument

Homework: Continue to work on cross examination questions.

Pretrial: Review & identify relevant facts that pertain to pretrial argument & “test”.

Oct. 30

Breakout sessions:

Prosecution & Defense: Continue with direct and cross examinations.

Pretrial: Discuss what facts are relevant to the “test” and how to use them in pretrial argument

Homework: Continue to work on direct and cross examination questions.

Nov. 6

Attorney Coach lecture: evidence objections (10-15 min)

Perhaps watch you tube videos of mock trial direct & cross with objections

Breakout sessions: practice direct examinations; overcoming and making objections, discuss developing a “theme” for your case.

Pretrial: Continue discussion and identification of facts that fit the “test”

Homework: Identify the facts and evidence to support each “theme” of the case

Pretrial: Review case packet for review of facts and how they fit. Review legal authorities for pretrial motion and work on distinguishing the facts in each case from the facts in case packet.

Nov. 13

Continue with direct and cross examinations and objections.

Pretrial: Discussion of distinguishing facts in case packet from facts in legal authorities.

Nov. 20: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Attorneys continue to work on direct examination questions and identifying evidence to prove or disprove elements of crimes.

Witnesses to finish learning the information pertaining to their character in preparation to begin practice direct examinations after break.

Watch you tube videos of past mock trials to get an idea of direct examination and cross examination.

Nov. 27

Attorney Coach lecture: Opening (10-15 min)

Brainstorm topics for Opening.

Pretrial: Continued discussion of using facts and legal authorities in pretrial argument.

Homework: Opening statements prepared by each trial attorney.

Pretrial: Begin drafting pretrial argument for one side.

Dec. 4

Opening statement presentations

Pretrial: Discussion of draft arguments.

Homework: Draft openings & closings for homework. Be prepared to present opening or closing when school resumes after break.

Pretrial: Continue work on drafting pretrial argument for one side.

Dec. 11

Attorney Coach lecture: closing arguments

Pretrial: Discussion of draft arguments.

Homework: Attorneys to work on closing arguments.

Pretrial: Continue work on drafting pretrial argument.

WINTER BREAK

Optional: Attorney Coaches available for zoom meetings with students as requested/needed.

Jan 8

Continue work on opening statements and closing arguments with commentary from coaches and students. Continue work on direct & cross examination questions and objections.

Pretrial: Practice pretrial arguments

Jan 22:

Full run through or practice scrimmage

Jan 29:

Full run through or practice scrimmage

Feb. 5:

Last practice session, coach commentary, fine tuning