



Comm Skills Virtual Learning

Legal Communications I & II

Courts & COVID -19

May 12, 2020



Lesson: May 12, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will examine the judicial branch's response to the pandemic.

Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

Yesterday, we learned that SCOTUS started hearing oral arguments via teleconferencing. This is the first time oral arguments have been broadcast live. Clearly the technology has existed for decades to broadcast these proceedings live. Why do you think oral arguments have never been broadcast live before the pandemic?

Lesson/Activity

Read or listen to this [article](#) about the broadcast of oral arguments.

Then, record

3 procedures of the oral arguments

2 interesting facts that you learned

1 question that you think of or recommendation that you would make for this process

Lesson/Activity

Next, read this [article](#).

Explain the case.

What unexpected things occurred?

Practice

After the stay-at-home and social distancing orders are lifted, should the practice of broadcasting oral arguments continue?

Check out the current discussion:

[New York Times](#)

[USA Today](#)

[Washington Post](#)

Practice

Now, craft your own argument. Should live broadcasts continue? How? In what form?

Write an editorial in which you argue for or against live broadcasts of oral arguments.

Additional Resources

[High Court Applauded](#)

[LA Times](#)

[SCOTUS Blog](#)