



HS Intro to Public Services

Friday, May 1, 2020



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Overall Lesson: Mock Trial

Sub lesson for Friday, May 1: Weighing testimony and evidence in reaching a verdict

Learning Target:

Students will understand the process of a trial and act as a jury to determine the guilt or innocence of an accused party.



Getting Started...

- Think back to the case you read as part of Thursday's lesson and all the people/roles involved in it.



Activity

- Today, you're going to read the transcript of a mock trial. If we were in class, students would play the parts listed, but since we're not, just read it all the way through on your own.

Before you start, look at the next slide for the definitions of some of the terms you will see:



Terms to Know

(definitions paraphrased from dictionary.law.com)

- **Objection**: a lawyer's protest about the legality of a question asked of a witness by the opposing attorney; the judge decides if the question can be asked.
- **Sustained**: the judge agrees that an attorney's objection is valid; the witness doesn't have to answer the question.
- **Hearsay**: when a witness is not telling what he/she knows personally, but what others have said to him/her
- **Overruled**: the judge rejects an attorney's objection to a question to a witness or admission of evidence, thus allowing the question or evidence to be asked or used
- **Speculation**: theory put forth without firm evidence (*from dictionary.com*)
- **Stricken**: cancel, remove, or cross out (*from dictionary.com*); in a trial, when the judge has information stricken from the record, the jury should not use that information in reaching its verdict



Activity

- Now, read [the](#) case.
- After you read the case, play the part of the jury and deliver a verdict: Is Pat Morton guilty or not guilty?
 - Remember, the prosecution must prove the guilt of the accused “beyond a reasonable doubt”.
- On a Google Doc or your own paper, address the following in paragraph form:
 - What verdict did you reach? (*Phrase it as “We, the jury, find the defendant _____.”*)
 - Why did you reach that verdict? (*Cite specific testimony or evidence that led you to that conclusion.*)
 - What more did you need to see/hear from the losing side (prosecution or defense) that could have swayed you to their side? (*Cite specific holes in their case that needed more or better information.*)