

Lesson 5 **The Trial**

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Participate in a mock trial.

Lesson Assessments

- Mock Trial Performance

Instructional Activities

- Review the steps in the trial with students, and then have the students conduct the trial.
 - Note: All references to “plaintiff” or “defendants” mean plaintiff’s and defendants’ attorneys.
 - During the trial the media reporters should be taking active notes so that they can submit their written or oral account of the trial.
1. Judge enters and takes the bench and clerk calls the case
 2. Opening statements:
 - a. Plaintiff
 - b. Defendant
 3. Plaintiff’s Case
 - a. Plaintiff’s witnesses
 - i. Plaintiff conducts direct examination
 - ii. Defendant cross-examines the witness
 - iii. Plaintiff conducts redirect examination if desired
 - b. Plaintiff rests
 4. Defendants’ Case
 - a. Defendants’ witnesses
 - i. Defendant conducts direct examination
 - ii. Plaintiff cross-examines the witness
 - iii. Defendant conducts redirect examination if desired
 - b. Defendants rest
 5. Closing arguments
 - a. Plaintiff
 - b. Defendant
 6. Judge decides what facts s/he believes, and applies the applicable law, given those facts. The judge can announce and explain the verdict or can be assigned to write an opinion.