

Lesson 5 Preparing for Trial

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Prepare questions and documents for a mock trial.

Materials

- Handout 13: Evidence Overview
- Handout 14: Mock Trial Script
- Handout 15: Courtroom Roles

Lesson Assessments

- Checks for understanding
- Individual meetings with students and teams

Instructional Activities

- Distribute **Handout 13: Evidence Overview**. Ask students to read through the rules of evidence and respond to the following questions:
 - What types of evidence is permitted?
 - How can lawyers admit evidence into the trial?
 - What types of questions can lawyers ask witnesses?
 - When should you object to the opposing counsel's questioning?Students will share out their responses.
- Distribute **Handout 14: Mock Trial Script**. During the mock trial, students will follow proper court procedure. Briefly review the script to provide students with the structure of the trial. Remind students that once they have received their roles they will want to review the script to make sure they know what they have to say during the trial. Explain to students that because the main issue in this case is the requested declaration and court order, not damages, it is appropriately tried to a judge, not a jury. (If the plaintiff wins, the next step is a remedial hearing in front of a jury, but this unit does not include that additional proceeding.)

Unit 6: Lesson 5
Religious Freedom

- Assign students roles. Combine or break up roles based on the number of students in the room.
 - Judge: In a real case, there would be just one, but you could have more than one, assigning each to run the courtroom during a different part of the proceeding. Or you may choose to play the procedural role of judge yourself, though perhaps assigning a student or students to render and explain their verdict in a written opinion.
 - Clerk: This role is most appropriate for a student who does not wish or may not be able to take on another role.
 - Plaintiff's team, including:
 - Witness 1: Captain Rajesh Singh
 - Witness 2: Major Nassir Kalsi
 - Attorneys to do the following (one student per attorney role; six students total):
 - Opening statement
 - Direct examination of Rajesh Singh
 - Direct examination of Nassir Kalsi
 - Cross-examination of Joanna Braddy
 - Cross-examination of Debra Wong
 - Closing argument
 - Defendant's team, including:
 - Witness 1: Lieutenant Colonel Joanna Braddy
 - Witness 2: Assistant Secretary Debra Wong
 - Attorneys to do the following (one student per attorney role; six students total):
 - Opening statement
 - Cross-examination of Rajesh Singh
 - Cross-examination of Nassir Kalsi
 - Direct examination of Joanna Braddy
 - Direct examination of Debra Wong
 - Closing argument
 - Media reporters, who provide an oral or written account at different points throughout the trial.
- Provide students with **Handout 15: Courtroom Roles** and instruct them to read the description corresponding to their roles. Provide them with time to complete assigned tasks independently and to meet in groups (i.e., Plaintiff's team, Defendant's team, etc.).
- Set aside time for each team to go over their roles with the teacher and make sure there are no questions before the trial begins.