

Lesson 6
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 a trial with students, and then have the students conduct the trial, under your guidance. 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 account of the trial.
1. Judge enters and takes the bench and clerk calls the case
 2. Opening statements:
 - a. Plaintiff
 - b. Defendants
 3. Plaintiff’s Case
 - a. Plaintiff calls first witness
 - i. Plaintiff conducts direct examination
 - ii. Defense cross-examines the witness
 - iii. Plaintiff conducts redirect examination if desired
 - b. Plaintiff calls second witness
 - i. Plaintiff conducts direct examination
 - ii. Defense cross-examines the witness
 - iii. Plaintiff conducts redirect examination if desired
 - c. Plaintiff rests (that is, plaintiff’s attorneys tell the judge they are done).
 4. Defendants’ Case
 - a. Defendant calls first witness
 - i. Plaintiff conducts direct examination
 - ii. Defense cross-examines the witness
 - iii. Plaintiff conducts redirect examination if desired
 - b. Defendant calls second witness
 - i. Plaintiff conducts direct examination
 - ii. Defense cross-examines the witness

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- iii. Plaintiff conducts redirect examination if desired
 - c. Defendants rest (that is, tell the judge they are done).
 5. Closing arguments
 - a. Plaintiff
 - b. Defendants
 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