

What Is Mock Trial?

In a mock trial, students play the roles of attorneys and witnesses as they prepare and present both sides of a hypothetical legal problem. Participants are given a hands-on opportunity to examine the legal process and current legal issues. Mock trials also help students develop important critical thinking skills and aid in the development of fundamental research, preparation, and presentation skills.

Mock trials also encourage the involvement of outside resource persons in the classroom. Attorneys, judges, law students, and other legal professionals may share their expertise with students. Other community leaders may become involved in working with participants on the content and issues involved in the various cases.

Learning Objectives:

- * To help students increase basic life and leadership skills such as active listening, speaking, writing, reading, and analyzing.
- * To heighten appreciation for academic studies and promote positive scholastic achievements.
- * To increase comprehension of the historical, ethical and philosophical basis of our judicial system.
- * To demystify the operation of law, court procedures and the legal system.
- * To build bridges of natural cooperation, respect and support between the community (teachers, students, parents and schools) and the legal profession.
- * To offer a positive experience with the legal system, bringing the courts to young people rather than young people to court.

The goal is not to win for the sake of winning, but to learn and understand the meaning of good citizenship in our democracy. In this sense, all students who participate will be winners.