Mock Trial In the Classroom - Planning Calendar

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Introduce the story of the case; **Start with inquiry:** students write all the questions they can think of about the case now that they've heard the basic story. "What do you want/need to know from both sides?" **How do you ask quality questions to get the story?** (Block Strategy)	**Discovery:** how to get to the necessary facts of the story **(mad libs activity)** **Inquiry Continued:** Using questions from Day 1, dig into 2 of the witness affidavits - look for answers, ask more questions, underline/ circle/ highlight strengths and weaknesses in each story **(witness prep worksheet** can be used here) **Mock Trial Vocabulary**	**Repeat Inquiry process** for 2 more witnesses Review vocabulary of parts of a trial / fun option: act out parts in a trial in a mini freeze-frame sketch activity Option: Use "**Probable Cause Continuum**" to determine how believable the stories are of the witnesses so far evaluated.	**Repeat inquiry process** for last 2 witnesses **Exhibits:** Using Witness Preparation sheets, now connect the exhibits to each witness Explain **how evidence is introduced in a trial** when a witness is being questioned.	Begin to develop a theory of the case for plaintiff and for defendant - **Theory of the Case worksheets** (work in pairs or small groups to talk over theories and supporting facts) Once Theory of case is developed, begin **drafting direct & cross examination questions for each witness.** (this can be divided up and given to different groups, then shared out)
Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Complete lists of questions for witnesses **Introduce Objections** - why we use them, what kinds of objections there are. Separate into Triad Groups	**Trial Triads** - practicing roles	**Trial Triads** - switch up roles	**Decide roles for trial** (some teachers have students apply, some teachers randomly or purposely assign roles, do what works for your students) Attorney groups split into plaintiff and defense sides and begin drafting opening statements Witness groups go over direct and cross questions previously developed and how they would answer	**Attorneys** finalize opening statements & draft outline for closing statement **Witnesses** practice responses to lists of questions **Jury/Journalists/others**, prepare overview of case & list of facts/evidence; what you need to hear to believe either side
Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15
Walk through steps of trial - act out mini version of each step Debrief together / do reflections individually or in groups; give each other feedback	**Practice Trial again**, all the way through; debrief each step and how it might be improved	**Mock Trial Day!** (invite guests to observe, if fewer students in class, guests can be judges of performance, not outcome of case)	**Debrief final trial with class; do reflections and evaluations** (optional) Students **award each other MVPs** for roles Celebrate!	Follow up activity: how might students write a mock trial for a book they are currently reading / film they are watching, etc.?

Mock Trial in the Classroom
List of Possible Activities / Resources

Mock Trial Strategies: *https://www.mocktrialstrategies.com/*

CLP Resources: *https://classroomlaw.org/resources/* (sort for Mock Trial)

- Mock Trial in the Classroom - Activity Guide

- Mock Trial Vocabulary

- Asking Direct & Cross Examination Questions - Block Activity

- Who is Responsible / Seeking the Facts - Mad Libs Activity

- Mock Trial Project - Suggested Calendar

- Mock Trial in the Classroom - Developing a Theory of the Case

- Witness Preparation Worksheet / can be used in conjunction with Trial Triads

- Trial Triads Outline

- Multiple Mock Trials (available on CLP website)

- Classroom Mock Trial Evaluation & Rubric Resources