



WASHINGTON YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

Mock Trial Bridging Document High School Constitutional Issues CBA

The student analyzes the purposes and organization of government and laws. For the state CBA your students will have to understand the purposes and organization of governments and laws. Through the Mock Trial Program students will demonstrate their knowledge of the purposes and organization of government and laws through both a written position paper and through courtroom presentations.

<p>For the CBA students will demonstrate their knowledge of the purposes and organization of government and laws through both a written position paper and through courtroom presentations In a persuasive paper or presentation, students will:</p>	<p><u>Mock Trial Extensions</u> The student can explain the purposes of our adversary system of justice and its application in both the civil and criminal law contexts (Foundation 2).</p>
<p>1) Select an issue or court case and explain how the issue connects with democratic ideals and/or constitutional principles.</p>	<p>Each year a case is selected to be tried in the Mock Trial program by the YMCA Mock Trial Case Selection Committee made up of Superior and Federal Judges and a Federal Attorney. All cases have included issues that are current and very debatable. A few examples of recent years cases are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2006 Case - " Fire & Ice" a case that involved a fire that caused a death in a clandestine meth lab ▪ 2005 Case -"Falling Dominoes" a murder case involving a gang in a local public market ▪ 2004 Case - "Patriot Act" a case of government search and seizure in public libraries and other facilities

	<p>Students in the Mock Trial Program will begin their experience through becoming familiar with the key principles in which our country's democratic government were founded through a review of our constitutional principles and rights.</p> <p><i>Our democratic ideals are:</i> justice, equality, life, pursuit of happiness, liberty, common good, diversity truth, popular sovereignty, patriotism</p> <p><i>Constitutional principles are:</i> rule of law, separation of powers, representative government, checks and balances, civil rights, human rights, federalism</p> <p>* See Foundations of Democracy Section of Kit & Case, and Lesson Plan 1)</p> <p>With this they will also review the separate branches of government and the purpose of the judicial branch</p>
<p>2) Evaluate other points of view on this issue.</p>	<p>Students will work with a team of students, attorney coaches, and teachers to develop their understanding of the mock case and be instructed on the issues from both sides of a court case Plaintiff and Defendant. They will gather information from past court rulings, similar cases, review founding documents relating to constitutional rights (to a trial) and supporting issues, and prepare/participate in debate/discussion on both sides of an issue of public concern.</p> <p>*See Foundations of Democracy Section of Kit & Case, and Lesson Plans 3 & 4</p>
<p>3) Explain how court cases and/or government policies affect the interpretation of rights involved with this issue using specific references.</p>	<p>Throughout this process students will become familiar with the role of the courts, judges, and attorneys in both the civil and criminal law contexts through both personal coaching, interviews, and instruction provided by attorneys and other professionals in the courts that work with each team throughout the Mock Trial Program year. Students will gather information from a variety of resources such as RCW's, U.S. Constitution, other state laws, and court rulings. Students study a case and are introduced to multiple perspectives on an issue and ultimately take their own position on the issue and role in the case. Students will outline the laws and interpretation of the research used to substantiate their side of the mock case.</p> <p>*See Lesson Plans 2, 5, 6, & 7 in the Kit & Case</p> <p>Recent court cases that have been relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2006, the pretrial motion had to do with parental eavesdropping. It was based on the case of <u>State v. Christenson</u> which was decided by the Washington

	<p>Supreme Court just a year earlier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005, the pretrial motion had to do with undercover police posing as attorneys as a ruse to gather incriminating evidence. This was based on the case of <u>State v. Athan</u> which has been decided by the Washington Court of Appeals and is now pending before the State Supreme Court. • In 2004, we had a challenge to the constitutionality of the USA Patriot Act, a subject that has been litigated in many federal courts in recent years. • A few years ago, in a civil case, we dealt with the issue of a school district's responsibility when there is an awareness of student-on-student sexual harassment. It was the same year that the U.S. Supreme Court dealt with the same issue.
<p>4) Develop a position on the issue that analyzes how individual rights and the common good can be balanced in relation to the issue.</p>	<p>Students will become familiar with the Supreme Court at both the State and Federal level through presentations, reading and research. They will be presented with and participate in the review of cases of similar relevancy as part of their preparation for trials. They will use their findings during their trials to substantiate their case. By learning how to substantiate their case, students will be well prepared to develop and present their position on the issue in question.</p> <p>* See Foundations of Democracy Section of Kit & Case, Lesson Plans 5 & 7, and the 2007 Case</p>
<p>5) Provide accurate reasons to support your position.</p>	<p>Students will write a position on the case and outline their arguments, resources, references, and give point to opposing view points this will be used in their Mock Trial courtroom proceedings.</p>

High School Student Checklist	Commentary of how the Mock Trial Program helps meet the CBA checklist
Essential Question: Why do we need a knowledge of the purposes and organization of government and laws? Mock Trial 2.1 & 2.2	The Mock Trial program begins with students reviewing the founding principles and analyzing the three branches of government as outlined in the constitution and the role of the judicial branch. The students then review the individual's right to a "Trial by Peers" and the processes that go into a trial.
Key Concepts	Through reading, research, interviewing and analyzing students will become familiar with the purposes and organization of our form of government and the laws under which we are governed.
Informational Reading	Students will use a variety of reading strategies as they become familiar with the Constitution, The Courts, the Case that is being reviewed, and the laws which govern it. Primary readings will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The U.S. Constitution ▪ The Case materials ▪ Washington State Rules of Evidence ▪ RCW's ▪ Washington Media Guide for the Courts ▪ Federal Laws relating to the case materials ▪ Supreme Court Rulings relating to the case materials
Synthesis and Organization	The Mock Trial process requires students to work in teams developing a case around a particular legal issue. In every case, the students will synthesize all aspects of their learning and research in order to organize their investigation and prepare for the final presentation (trial).
Discussion	Upon completion of the research and creation of their case, students will participate in a live courtroom trial with other teams, practicing attorneys and judges. During the trial, students will explain their viewpoints, show proof of their research, and make opinions based on their legal research. Students will also have the opportunity following each trial to answer questions and get feedback from attorney raters and the presiding judge on the issues of the case.

Written Position Paper

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Students will write a position on the case and outline their arguments, resources, references, and give point to opposing view points. They will use this as preparation for their trial experiences.