

Bloomfield Public Schools

Teacher: J Shanagher Grade Unit Length: 16 days Content Area/Dept:

Unit Title: Mock Trial

Supervisor/Principal Approval: _____

Established Goals (G): *NJ Student Learning Standards*

RI.8.1, RI.8.9

W.8.1., W.8.2., W.8.4., W.8.5. W.8.6., W.8.10.

SL.8.1., SL.8.3., SL.8.6.

L.8.1, L.8.2

6.3.8.CivicsPR.5

Enduring Understanding (EU):

Students will understand that

U1 – Civil court cases are determined by reasoned judgments determined by preponderance of evidence.

U2 – Impact on justice system by becoming impartial observers in the disputes of other people.

U3 – A writer’s choice of word can affect the meaning of text.

U4 – Criminal cases are determined by a unanimous jury verdict beyond reasonable doubt.

Essential Questions (EQ):

Q1 – How does a jury decide a verdict?

Q2 – What is fair and just in our society?

Q3 – Why is a person innocent until proven guilty?

Q4 – How does testimony affect the verdict?

Q5 – What is the difference between civil and criminal cases?

Q6 – How does the burden of proof impact a decision?

Students will know ...

K1 – How to develop a mock trial

K2 – Various parts of a mock trial case

K3 – Importance of remaining impartial

K4 – Difference between civil and criminal cases

Students will be able to ...

S1 – Read and analyze previous winning Mock Trial cases.

S2 – Create and develop Mock Trial case based on contest topic.

S3 – Use evidence and testimonies as strategies to present best possible case for a side.

S4 – Research and develop facts, issues, witness statements, instructions, sub-issues, concepts and law.

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Performance Tasks (if applicable)

- Read and analyze winning Mock Trial cases.
- Read and evaluate the different parts of Mock Trial cases.
- Brainstorm and develop class ideas for Law Adventure.
- Develop, write and edit fact pattern, witness statement, issue, instructions, sub-issues, concepts and law.

AND/OR

- Submit completed cases to Law Adventure Competition.

Other Evidence:

Formal

_____ Essays
_____ Rubrics
_____ Reports
_____ Quizzes
_____ Tests
_____ Other Assessments

Informal

_____ Pre-assessment
_____ Journal Entries
_____ Informal observations
_____ Other

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Learning Plan

Projected Days/ Dates	Learning Activities for the Unit	Essential Question(s) Number	Enduring Understanding(s) Number	Standard(s) and degree	Strategies for Differentiation / Accommodations
2 days	Watch <i>12 Angry Men</i> and complete reflection questions throughout. See # 1 and #3 under Teacher Notes.	Q2, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	E	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.
	Related HW: Complete questions			<i>Degree</i> E M	
1 day	Introduce case types, vocabulary, parts of a mock trial. Related HW: Review case topics on njsbf.org and create a case scenario on Google Docs.	Q2, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	<i>E</i> <i>Degree</i> E M	
1 day	Discuss winning cases from the Law Adventure contest. Have students give verdict and explanation.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	E	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.
	Related HW: One paragraph response for each case, which side student would rule in favor of and why.			<i>Degree</i> E M	
2 days	Read assigned group case of the student's choice on njsbf.org. Discuss burden of proof for each case.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	E	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.
	Related HW: Summarize each section of the case and determine if the plaintiff/prosecution has a case-why or why not. Discussion for each case in class.			<i>Degree</i> E M	
2 days	Read and discuss any two cases from njsbf.org. In groups, analyze these cases. What are the pros and cons? Did	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	E	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.

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	they prove by preponderance of evidence (civil case) or beyond a reasonable doubt (criminal case)? What can be improved?				
	Related HW: Brainstorm ideas for current year's case topics. One paragraph summary for each post on classroom.			<i>Degree</i> E M	

For Standard Degree, circle appropriate degree of Thoroughness: E = Exposure (somewhat), M = Mastery (thorough)

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2 days	Brainstorm individual class ideas for each topic. Narrow down topics for each class.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	E	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.
	Related HW:			<i>Degree</i> E M	
2 days	Begin developing fact patterns for each case in small groups. Narrow down and decide on one case for the class.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	M	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.
	Related HW: Decide and develop one idea post on classroom.			<i>Degree</i> E M	
2 days	Once a case topic is determined, small groups develop fact patterns and witness statements.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	M	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.
	Related HW: Write witness statements on Google Docs.			<i>Degree</i> E M	
3 days	In small groups, develop remaining parts of the case: issue, instructions, sub-issues, concepts and law.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	M	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.
	Related HW: Research online and post on Google Docs.			<i>Degree</i> E M	
2 days	Revise and edit for the final product. Submit by contest deadline.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6	U1, U2, U3, U4	M	Use of technology throughout the unit. Accommodations made as needed.
	Related HW:			<i>Degree</i> E M	

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Teacher Notes:

1. The number of days may be adjusted based on the amount of class time available.
2. Students who are new to Law Adventure will find *12 Angry Men* helpful. It may be deleted for experienced classes.
3. Link to 12 *Angry Men* study questions:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SUV2FmNX5aeLEVtw2xJ3EQPKByphkDzCY83VvLobDXw/edit>
4. If possible, use winning cases that address similar topics to those assigned each year.
5. Encourage students to use their imagination. What initially sounds like an outrageous idea can be refocused into an excellent case.
6. Refer often to the rules and topics. It can be easy to wander off topic or miss an important instruction in the directions.
7. Proofread constantly. Don't be afraid to ask other teachers for help with the editing.