

THE OUTSIDERS MOCK TRIAL

JOHNNY CADE

THE TRIAL OF JOHNNY CADE VS. BOB

YOU have just been summoned to court! You have been called as a witness for Ponyboy and Johnny's trial where you will be asked about the people involved and events leading up to Johnny's stabbing of Bob and their subsequent escape to the church. Students will form groups according to their roles, conduct research, and present a mock trial as a group. The class and your teacher will serve as jury and judge, respectively.

The roles that will be played in the mock trial include: Prosecuting Attorneys, Defense Attorneys, Jury members, Ponyboy, Johnny, Dally, Darry, Sodapop, Cherry and Randy.

But first, you need to understand what a courtroom is like, some legal terminology, and who the major players are that you will encounter during your time at trial.

THE OUTSIDERS

If you are an attorney:

Prosecuting and Defense Attorneys

You will need to prepare the following to turn in: the Debate Outline Form AND either a personal journal/diary page (3 paragraphs typed or written neatly on notebook paper) OR a video blog of at least 5 minutes in length; the choice is up to you. Here are some Vocabulary terms you will need to include in your journal/diary page or video blog. *(see me for the vocabulary terms because the school's computer won't allow us to see them)*

To prepare yourself, you will also need to read the following cases and information to help you form your argument. You don't necessarily need to read every word in the links below, but you will need to scan for details that will help you perform your role and write your journal/diary page or video blog.

Remember that in the courtroom, you are arguing from either the perspective of the prosecuting attorney or the defense attorney. The prosecuting attorney will tell the court that Johnny is guilty of multiple crimes and should be punished. The defense attorney will argue that Johnny shouldn't be punished for his crimes because he was defending himself. However, privately you may think something different.

Step 1: Download the Attorney Argument form and look at all these links:

Mock Trial Attorney [Argument form](#)

THE OUTSIDERS

Good links about crimes that will help you with the trial:

1. Defenses to Criminal charges:

<http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/defenses-criminal-charges-30275.html>

2. Helping a person in a crime (aider and abettor):

<http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/accomplices-accessories-aiders-abettors-30145.html>

3. Homicide charges (murder and manslaughter):

<http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/homicide-murder-manslaughter-32637.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_\(United_States_law\)#Degrees_of_murder_in_the_United_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_(United_States_law)#Degrees_of_murder_in_the_United_States)

4. Arson:

<http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/arson-33812.html>

5. Gun possession:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weapon_possession_\(crime\)#Types](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weapon_possession_(crime)#Types)

<http://www.legalmatch.com/law-library/article/minor-in-possession-of-a-gun.html>

6. Fleeing to avoid prosecution:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1073>

THE OUTSIDERS

Other Links:

1. Criminal Charges Information by State:

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/execution-juveniles-us-and-other-countries>

2. Trial Practice Tips for writing an Opening

Statement:http://www.illinoistrialpractice.com/2004/02/notes_on_openin.html

3. Tips for Making a Closing Argument:

<http://www.caught.net/prose/advtt/hbclose.htm>

4. Questioning Witnesses:

<http://www.gentrylocke.com/showarticle.aspx?Show=164>

5. Trying Juveniles as Adults:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0322/p03s03-usju.html>

6. Roper v. Simmons:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/03-633.ZS.html>

7. Arguments for and against juveniles being treated as adults:

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,110232,00.html>

8. Judge declares mistrial in a teen case:

<http://www.google.com/search?q=teen+argues+self+defense+in+murder+case&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a>

9. Teen murder suspect claims self defense:

<http://www2.godanriver.com/news/2012/mar/23/teen-murder-suspect-trial-danville-circuit-court-ar-1785793/>

THE JURY

As jurors who will decide the fate of the accused (Ponyboy and Johnny), you will need to put together a newspaper detailing what has happened in the events surrounding what happened in the park. You will turn in a log **AND** **either** a journal/diary page (3 paragraphs typed or neatly written) **OR** a video blog of at least 5 minutes in length if you'd rather not write your response; the choice is yours.

Write a ONE page 3-paragraph journal/diary entry or record a video blog regarding your thoughts on the case.

Here are some questions to guide your thoughts as an attorney for either side in this case:

- Do you think Johnny is guilty or innocent? Why?
- Which witness testimony affected your thoughts the most?
- What evidence is most helpful to your case?
- What evidence is most damaging?
- How important is it to you as an attorney to win your case?
- Does it bother you that your personal feelings may be at odds with the job you're supposed to do in court?
- Do you think justice will be served?
- What should happen to Johnny?

THE OUTSIDERS

WITNESS TO THE CRIME

Soc and Greaser Witnesses

As witnesses regarding the events leading up to the time of the murder, you will need to document what you know for the attorney who will be questioning you at trial. You will turn in a log **AND either** a journal/diary page (3 paragraphs typed or neatly written) **OR** a video blog of at least 5 minutes in length if you'd rather not write your response; the choice is yours.

Now that you know who you will play in court and keeping this character's perspective in mind, you will create a log of **10 key events and 10 characters' quotes from the book** that are significant for you as a character. You will explain why you think each event or quote is significant. This will help the prosecuting or defense attorneys to draw up questions to ask you at the trial.

Your log should be formatted using the "table" function in Word. Include 3 columns and at least 13 rows. Here is an example of how to get started:

Event /Quote

page number from the book

Why this is important

1.(write quote exactly as it appears in the book. Use " ".)

pg. ____

(you write your explanation here)

2. (if using an event, briefly describe it in a few words)

pg. ____

(your explanation)

WITNESS TO THE CRIME

Now that you've created your log, as a witness you'd like to prepare yourself for court. You've decided to read some information to help you understand what to expect as well as information on similar cases. These articles below will help you write your one-page journal/diary entry or record your thoughts on your video blog. You don't necessarily need to read every word in every article. Instead, scan for details that will help you form an opinion about how this case should turn out. Remember, it is okay if your private thoughts change during the course of the trial or might be different from what your peers (in the book) believe.

1. An easy-to-read version of who's who in a courtroom:

http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson799/Roles.pdf

2. The Do's and Don'ts of Testifying in Court:

http://mr_sedivy.tripod.com/usgov_7.html

3. The Supreme Court Ends Death Penalty for Juveniles:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4518051>

4. More guidelines on how to answer questions as a witness:

http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/forensic_psychology/88426/3

5. Article on teen crime statistics and who's to blame:

<http://www.gzyn.com/cmp/contentReadingActions.do?method=readArticle&id=2033&edition=1&title=Teen+Crime+Statistics+++Can+we+do+anything+about+them%3F>

6. Information on child neglect and child abuse:

<http://www.focusas.com/Abuse.html>

7. Statistics on abused children who grow up to be violent or abuse others:

<http://www.childhelp.org/pages/statistics>

8. Article that interviews gang members:

http://www.news-record.com/content/2007/08/26/article/why_do_kids_join_gangs

9. Why Do Kids Join Gangs?:

http://www.denverda.org/prosecution_units/Gang/Why_Do_Kids_Join_Gangs.htm

STUDENTS AWARENESS

Conclusion

The trial is over and the verdict is in! Congratulations on a job well done. There are several things that I hope you've gained from this experience:

- A new understanding of how the American justice system and a court of law works
- The responsibility of telling the truth and respect for the judicial system
- The idea that juvenile defendants must be treated with special care since they have a better chance at turning their lives around after serving a sentence
- An opinion concerning the death penalty for children and adults
- How the perspective of others motivates their thoughts, beliefs, words and deeds
- A greater appreciation for the influence of books and characters in not just entertaining us, but helping us to examine our own ideas about the greater world we live in
- A realization that while the law must be obeyed, we must consider each case carefully before making a judgment
- An understanding of how child abuse affects the victim and all of society

STANDARDS TO GUIDE

- ▶ 8.W.1 Write arguments to support with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- ▶ 8.W.2 Write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information.
- ▶ 8.W.3 Write narratives to develop real experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- ▶ 8.W.5 With some guidance and support from peers and teacher, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
- ▶ 8.SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions(one-on-one, one-two-win, groups) with diverse partners, build on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- ▶ 8.SL.2 Analyze the purpose presented in diverse media and formats and evaluate the motives behind its presentation.
- ▶ 8.SL.3 Delineate (describe precisely) a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning an relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
- ▶ 8.SL.4 Present claims and finding, emphasizing salient (most important) points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details, use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.