

1920s Mock Trial Project

The 1920s saw several court cases referred to as the “Trial of the Century”. Those trials still impact us today. In this group project you will need to research your trial and then act out your trial in front of the class.

Each student will be assigned a part or parts and they are responsible for memorizing their parts. I do not expect each person to have every line memorized but try not to read every single word.

Your “mock trial” should use as many real facts, names and dates as possible. Costumes are not mandatory but, are HIGHLY recommended. The goal is for you to understand your trial and then through your performance in the “mock trial” the rest of the class (which will be taking notes) will then understand your trial.

Your “mock trial” will begin with a narrator introducing the main characters and setting the scene (time, place etc.)

There will be several acts which you must perform:

1. Act I

In this act, your group will reenact the crime. No weapons. Research your case and be as accurate as possible. This scene should take 1-2 minutes.

2. Act II

In this act, the defense lawyer will consult with the defendants and discuss their strategy for the trial. You may also discuss the reasons that will convince the jury you are not guilty. This scene should take 1-2 minutes.

3. Act III

In this act, the prosecuting attorneys will lay out their case and the evidence they hope will convict the defendants. You may not be able to find all the lawyers names, but use real names when possible. This scene should take 1-2 minutes.

4. Act IV

In this act, both sides will perform a mini trial. You may examine witnesses, give opening or closing statements, present evidence or recite dialogue from the actual trial. The goal is to summarize your side of the case. The judge will also give the verdict. This scene should take 1-2 minutes.

5. Act V

The narrator should give brief information about the following:

1. Epilogue-Tell the class what happened to the key characters after the trial.
2. A brief statement that explains the importance of your class and the impact it has had.