

Tips on Preparing for your Mock Trial

Dear Teachers,

We are delighted that you have decided to participate in our *Classroom to Courtroom* program. We are eager to meet your students and assist them with the Mock Trial activity. Unfortunately, we don't always get to spend as much time with the students as we would like so here are some tips that can help everyone **prior to our visit to your classroom.**

1. **Decide which case you want the class to do.** It would be great if you could let us know via email which case you decide on *before* we arrive at your school.
2. **Assign the roles.** Students can begin thinking about what to do and say. Witnesses need to know their statements pretty well and attorneys can begin coming up with some questions or at least ideas for questions before we get there.
3. **Divide the class.** The jurors cannot know anything about the case before court day. They will not need any of the mock trial handouts and discussions about the case in jurors' presence should be kept as minimal as possible. If you have an activity or assignment to keep jurors busy while defense and prosecution teams are working, that would be fine or we always have juror activities with us as well.

The groups should be physically separated in some way (prosecution and defense) if possible. Many teachers choose to rearrange the desks so that the teams can each work as a group and so the jurors cannot hear what the case is about. If physically rearranging desks is not an option, we can always just adjust the seating arrangement of the students another way.

4. **All attorneys need to each have a copy of the stipulated facts *plus* all witness statements** (prosecution and defense) so they can prepare their direct and cross examination questions. Witnesses only need a copy of the sheet with their role as well as the stipulated facts. Jurors don't need anything.

The roles for each class and the papers needed for each role are as follows:

✓ **6 attorneys* (3 prosecution, 3 defense)** *For smaller classes, you might want to select only 4 total attorneys (2 for each side) so that you will have enough jurors.

- mock trial script
- stipulated facts
- prosecution witness statements
- defense witness states

(all attorneys need both sets of statements so they may prepare direct and cross-examination questions)

✓ **3 defense witnesses**

- stipulated facts
- defense witness statements

✓ **3 prosecution witnesses**

- stipulated facts
- prosecution witness statements

✓ **1 bailiff**

- mock trial script

(The bailiff won't have anything to work on before court day so he or she may work with the jurors during class.)

These items can be downloaded from the manual on our website:

<http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/teencourt/index.php>.

There are also some other activities in there that you might find useful for your class.