

Steven

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Mock-trial reflection

The mock-trial I participated in was a great learning experience. In the trial, I served as the defendant and I was accused of assault. Each side, prosecution and defense had four attorneys, and two witnesses. Each attorney handled a different part of the case; one did the opening statement, one was in charge of the direct examination of the defense witnesses, the third cross examined the prosecution's witnesses and the final attorney gave the closing statement.

We spent several days, researching and developing a plan for our defense. Even though we had different parts to do, we all helped each other with our tasks so we could all get a taste of things and so our defense would be tight. The witnesses needed to memorize their stories so they wouldn't get befuddled on the stand, the two questioning attorneys had to figure out what questions to ask as to best aid our team, so we all worked together so everything was to it's max potential.

After the few days of preparation we had, we started the trial. The classroom was rearranged and set up like a court, judge in front, two parallel tables for the defense and prosecution respectively, and chairs along the side for the jury. The court processions took two periods, about two hours, split in half over the duration of two days. Both sides presented their cases, in my opinion the defense greatly outdid the prosecution, but apparently the jury didn't agree. We had to modify the rules a bit, since we didn't have all the time in the world, the jury verdict went to majority rules instead of unanimous after not coming to a verdict about three times. Another part was that the jury discussed

in front of the whole class instead of in private, letting us see how a jury would conduct itself.

I'm glad I got the chance to participate in this trial, because of my experience I'm considering going after a law career when I'm out of high school.