

In my social studies class we got the opportunity to experience what it would be like to take part in a mock trial. I learned a lot more about law after participating in this trial than I ever would of by reading a book.

During our mock trial I noticed the whole class participating. Even the students who normally don't take part in class activities, were interested and focused. All the students took there time to analyze the situation we were given. While analyzing the information we investigated the things that didn't match up. We found wholes in the witnesses statements and matched them to the facts. Through this we discovered lies that helped us create our cross examination questions. When planning these questions we worked backwards. Instead of thinking of the question first, we thought about the answer we wanted to hear. If we created our questions right, then we would have an advantage. In order to do so, we had to have a good understanding of the witness statements and situation. We also had to understand the rules of a trial. So we could help protect our witnesses during the other teams cross examination questions. If we didn't understand the rules, then we wouldn't of been able to be successful in achieving our goal of winning the case.

Finally came the day were we would find out if all out hard work paid off. As soon as I walked into the classroom I felt like I was a real lawyer defending my client. My teacher transformed our classroom into a something that demonstrated a courtroom. Once the trial started I began to really understand what it would be like to be in a real trial. Everyone was very involved and paying attention. The jury members were taking notes and trying to puzzle together fact from fiction. After both sides got to present their case all we could do was wait. Because the jury had to go into a different room so they could come up with their verdict. Waiting for them the come to a conclusion felt as if it took forever. Did we forget anything important or leave anything out? Did we do a good job of presenting our case and not forgetting any details? These were just some of the many questions that we thought about. In the end our team won our case. It was such a relieve to know we reached our goal.

Before I participated in this mock trial I didn't understand how much detail and work is put into each case. We spent a lot more time doing paper work and planning everything than we did presenting our case. This goes to show that studying law isn't always what it seems. Not only was this trial fun, but I learned a lot about law. I really feel that Colton High School would benefit if this class was provided. This is a class I would definitely sign up for if I had the opportunity.

Sincerely,  
CHS student Nicole