Mock Trial: Galileo!

- **Introduction: Yes, we are going put Galileo on trial! Here's what we need:**
- **Participants:**
  - **Judge (1-5), prosecutor(s) (1-3), defense attorney(s) (1-3), witnesses for the prosecution (1-2), witnesses for the defense (1-2), bailiff (swears in witnesses and marks evidence) (1), jury (up to twelve), one of whom should be named jury foreman; alternates may also be designated.**

"I must see your completed work by the last 10 minutes of the period!" See the requirements for your group, below:

- **Everyone**: Complete the short Internet research assignment on Galileo. You will also need to conduct further Internet research on this subject for the trial. Good places to start: http://galileo.rice.edu/christianity.html and http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/galileo/galileo.html.
- **Judges:** You must master court trial procedure and direct every step of the trial! You are in charge! In addition, if an attorney cries "objection!" you must decide to "sustained" (agree with the objection) or "overruled" (disagree with the objection). Prepare a two-column chart, one column with 10 fact-based arguments for the defense, the other column with 10 fact-based arguments for the prosecution.
- **Prosecution Team**: Prepare opening statement, 10 good arguments with evidence, fact-based questions for witnesses, closing statement.
- **Defense Team**: Prepare opening statement, 10 good arguments with evidence, fact-based questions for witnesses, closing statement.
- **Witnesses**: Become a master of your role in the trial. If you are Galileo, you must KNOW him and how he would respond to questions. You must provide factual answers! Develop 10 facts about Galileo, especially concerning the conflict between scientific theory and Church doctrine.
- **Jury:** Review the grading rubric for the court trial. Prepare a two-column chart, one column with 10 fact-based arguments for the defense, the other column with 10 fact-based arguments for the prosecution. You should expect to see some of the these arguments presented during the trial. You will unanimously reach a verdict towards the end of the trial.

Simplified Steps in a Trial:

1. Calling of Case by Bailiff: "All rise. The Court of _____ is now in session. Honorable Judge _____presiding.

2. Opening Statement: First the prosecutor (criminal case) or plaintiff's attorney (civil case), then the defendant's attorney, explain what their evidence will be and what they will try to prove.

3. Prosecution's or Plaintiff's Case: Witnesses are called to testify (direct examination) and other physical evidence is introduced. Each witness called is cross-examined '(questioned so as to break down the story or be discredited) by the defense.

4. Defendant's Case: Same as the third step except that defense calls witnesses for direct examination; cross-examination by prosecution/plaintiff.

5. Closing Statement: An attorney for each side reviews the evidence presented and asks for a decision in his/her favor.

6. Jury Instructions (Jury Trials Only): The Judge explains to the jury appropriate rules of law that it is to consider in weighing the evidence. As a general rule, the prosecution (or the plaintiff in a civil case) must meet the burden of proof in order to prevail. In a criminal case this burden is very high. In order for the accused? Are some parts of the trial more important than others? Would you trust a jury of your peers to determine your guilt or innocence? Students should also explore their reactions to playing attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and the judge. What roles do each play in the trial process?

JUDGE
Witness Stand
Court Reporter (or Clerk)
Prosecting Attorney
Jurors
Jury Box
Table for the Defense
Table for the Prosecution
Defendent (or Accused)
Defense Lawyers

Hand-Out

Mock Trial Judging Form

For mock trial competitions, the performance winner is the side scoring the highest number of points. A sample rating sheet is provided that can be used to determine the winner in mock trial competitions.

Instructions

This rating sheet is to be used score mock trial teams. For each of the 13 standards listed below, indicate a score from the following scale.

1. poor
2. below average
3. average
4. above average
5. superior

Scoring of the presentation should be independent of your decision on the merits of the case. In case of a tie, the team with the highest overall performance score will be declared the winner. Circle the winning team below.

Prosecution: _____ (team name)

Defense: _____ (team name)

Standards		
ATTORNEYS	**Prosecution**	**Defense**
THE OPENING STATEMENT provides a clear and concise description of the anticipated presentation.		
ON DIRECT EXAMINATION, attorneys asked questions that brought out key information for their side of the case and kept the witnesses from discussing irrelevancies.		
ON CROSS-EXAMINATION, attorneys exposed contradictions in testimony and weakened the other's side case without becoming antagonistic.		
IN QUESTIONING OF WITNESS, attorneys properly phrased questions and demonstrated a clear understanding of trial procedures.		
IN THE CLOSING STATEMENT, the attorney made an organized and well-reasoned presentation emphasizing the strengths of his or her side of the case and addressing the flaws exposed by the opposing attorneys.		
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES AND LAW in the case was demonstrated by the attorneys.		
SPONTANEITY was demonstrated by attorneys in their ability to respond to witnesses and in the overall presentation of the case.		

Standards		
WITNESSES	**Prosecution**	**Defense**
CHARACTERIZATIONS were believable and witness testimony was convincing.		
PREPARATION was evident in the manner witnesses handled questions posed.		
FAVORABLE TESTIMONY for their side was given by witnesses based upon the record or what could be reasonably implied from the Fact Situation and Witness Sheets. (Deduct points for deviation and embellishment.)		
SPONTANEITY was demonstrated by witnesses in their responses to questions.		

Standards		
TEAM	**Prosecution**	**Defense**
COURTROOM DECORUM and courtesy were observed by team members, and voices were clear and distinct.		
ALL TEAM MEMBERS were actively involved in the presentation of the case.		
TOTAL SCORE FOR TEAMS: overall team performance (Maximum 65 points)		