

## **ROLE DESCRIPTIONS (1 of 2)**

*(Also includes instructions on sitting, standing and who to address)*

### **The Role of the Executive Director/Consultant**

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\*The Director will create a mock trial program that can be used in 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to complete the Next Generation Standard and Objective (SS.PD.5.C) and educate students about substance abuse, most recently prescription drug abuse.

\* The Director will compile a step by step manual/handouts/resources that can be downloaded and printed for teachers and students and overview videos and a “how to” DVD.

\*The Director will be available for ongoing questions (contact info– above).

**The Role of the Teacher** -Teachers will be responsible for the overall preparation and implementation of the mock trial program. They will read and print the manual and attachments/handouts, and copy/highlight scripts for those students who have speaking roles, assign the roles, move around the classroom, make or buy props, acquire lawyers, review vocabulary words and lead rehearsal. They will decide what Day 1 prep will consist of from the materials given to them under WEBSITE RESOURCES (website listed above), along with other information they believe would be helpful for a successful mock trial. Teachers will call the lawyers, send out their packets and thank them. They will distribute the props on Day 2 and introduce the lawyer. They can take pictures/video and help with deliberations by reviewing the verdict form and making sure no student is pressured into changing their verdict. Teachers will also: Print out/cut out/hand out the gavel pencil bracelets.

**The Role of the Lawyer “JUDGE”** -The lawyer is responsible for reading the role of the Judge in the scripted mock trial. After the mock trial, which takes about 30-40 minutes, he/she will be available for a Q & A session with the students. The “Judge” will sit and face the members of the “courtroom.”

**The Role of the Bailiff** -The bailiff is responsible for calling the court to order. They will escort each witness to the clerk to be sworn in. They escort them to the witness chair, and when they are finished their testimony they escort them back to their seat. (In a real trial the witnesses are OUT of the courtroom BUT for mock trial purposes they sit in the audience so they can be a part of the process.) The bailiff is also responsible for leading the jurors out into the hall of the classroom (or any other designated place) for deliberations. They stand by the classroom door and when the jurors are finished and ring their bell/buzzer, the bailiff leads them back into the courtroom before taking his/her place next to the clerk.

**The Role of the Clerk** -The clerk is responsible for swearing in all witnesses before they “take the stand.” If there is evidence to be marked in a trial, they are responsible for marking these also. The clerk sits to the right of the “Judge.”

## ROLE DESCRIPTIONS (2 of 2)

**The Role of the State Attorney and Defense Attorneys** -It is the responsibility of all lawyers to sit next to and defend their clients to the best of their ability. They should practice their reading parts and put emotion into their roles. For opening statements and closing arguments they take their scripts, stand and face the jurors to speak. When witnesses are called to the witness stand, they should stand either by their desk or go stand (not too close) in front of the witness. They may also use a podium.

**The Role of the Defendants** -The defendants sit next to the lawyer representing them. If they have a speaking role they follow the same procedure as the other witnesses.

**The Role of the Witnesses** -Witnesses should be sworn in and “take the stand” so they can tell their story according to the script. They SHOULD speak LOUD and CLEAR so everyone in the classroom/courtroom can hear them, including all jurors who must hear all witnesses testimony correctly to decide their verdict. Each witness will be sitting in the audience, behind the lawyers until called. They walk up with the bailiff to the clerk to be sworn in and then take a seat in the witness chair as they testify. After they testify, they go back to their seat in the audience.

**The Role of Court Reporter** -The court reporter is responsible for typing (pretending) EVERY word of a trial. They will need a desk so they can put a computer on it (signifies the court reporting machine.)

**The Role of the Jurors** -This is the MOST IMPORTANT role in a trial. The trial is done for the benefit of the jurors who have the responsibility of deciding the verdict (guilty or not guilty) based on witness testimony they hear and evidence they see in a trial. They sit in two rows of 6 on the side of the “courtroom” CLOSEST to the Prosecuting/State Attorney.

### **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:**

*IN A REAL TRIAL, THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIBERATIONS. We have about 5 -10 minutes. Each juror is entitled to their own opinion, they should not feel pressured to change their mind because of what other jurors want them to do.*

**The Role of the Jury Foreperson**-The Foreperson makes sure all jurors are wearing their JUROR badges during the trial. They sit with the other jurors. They are responsible for reading each charge to other jurors and asking them, if they are voting guilty or not guilty. Jurors vote by a show of hands. The goal is to get a unanimous verdict.\* They will sign the verdict form and also ring a buzzer/bell when they are finished deliberating so the bailiff can lead them back into the classroom/courtroom. The foreperson promotes discussion if everyone does not agree by letting jurors tell why they voted the way they did, and then continually taking votes.

*\*The verdict must be unanimous (everyone must decide the same thing), so in most cases, there will be discussion. Try to get everyone to vote the same way – but if not, it will be a hung jury and you don't mark anything next to that particular charge and tell the Judge you have reached a partial verdict.*