

JUROR INSTRUCTIONS/NOTES

(Select 12 students if you have that many)

Your job, as a juror, is the most important job in the trial!

*EVERYTHING DONE DURING THE TRIAL IS FOR YOU – THE JUROR,
... TO HELP **YOU** DECIDE THE CASE!!!!!!*

1. When the trial ends and the Judge reads to you the instructions on the law, it will be time for you to DELIBERATE and come to a VERDICT, hopefully a UNANIMOUS verdict, (meaning everyone). First, SELECT A JURY FOREPERSON (person who will read the verdict to the court), if not already done. NOTE – For time purposes, this may already be done.
2. Your job is pretty quiet until the end of the trial. You should listen very carefully during the trial so you can think clearly and decide if you think the defendant(s) is guilty or not guilty.
3. REMEMBER, in a criminal case, the Defendant(s) is INNOCENT unless the prosecution proves he/she is guilty BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT. If your case is a CIVIL CASE, it's about money so you will decide, as a group, if you think the plaintiff should receive money and how much.
4. You will be given about 5 minutes at the end of trial to talk to each other and come to a decision about guilt or innocence.
5. If you cannot decide, keep talking with the other jurors because everyone has to TRY to come to the same decision by raising your hand- either GUILTY or NOT GUILTY.

Note – If a unanimous decision cannot be reached – it is called a hung jury, a mistrial is declared and the trial could start over from the beginning with new jurors!!

6. WHEN THE JURY FOREPERSON GIVES THE VERDICT TO THE JUDGE, HE/SHE WILL SAY TO ALL THE JURORS, “So say you all?” ALL JURORS RESPOND, “YES, YOUR HONOR.”

NOTE: As a juror, you are entitled to YOUR OWN OPINION based on what you heard in trial and any evidence that may have been presented. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO “SURRENDER YOUR OPINION” (change your mind) simply because of peer pressure, time to go home, etc. YOU SHOULD, HOWEVER, keep an open mind and listen to the reasoning on the other side – you might then change your mind.