Class Activity: Classroom Trial

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**Main Concept**: Every student will participate according to their role (juror, attorney, etc.) as our class simulates a criminal law courtroom. A scenario will explain the crime which allegedly took place, evidence will be presented for the defense and prosecution to work with, and after all is said and done… the jury will decide the verdict for our defendant!

**Alleged Crime Scenario**: The plaintiff (Laneice / Adrain) claims that between the timeframe of 8:00 – 8:20 am on October 31st, 2013 at Bertie Early College High School, the defendant (Tyler / Amari) assaulted her in the girl’s restroom and stole her Mini-Barber Ninja Action Figure. The plaintiff also claims that the defendant threatened her with a pencil and warned her not to tell anyone about it or else. The available evidence on this alleged crime will be presented to both the defense and the prosecution. They will develop a strategy to help them win the case, however, it will up to the jury to decide if the defendant is guilty or not.

**Different Roles for the Classroom Trial Activity:**

* *Judge*: You will keep order in the courtroom by making sure the attorneys are presenting their cases fairly and by making sure both the prosecution and the defense have the equal chance to make their argument. You will also make sure members of the jury are paying attention. In the end, if the jury decided the defendant is guilty, you will be responsible to deliver the appropriate sentence.
* *Defendant*: You will work together with your attorneys to prove that you are not guilty of the crime which the plaintiff has accused you of.
* *Plaintiff*: You will work together with your attorney to prove that the defendant is guilty of the crime you have accused them of.
* *Bailiff*: You are responsible for helping to maintain order in the courtroom and ensure everyone’s safety. You also guide any possible witnesses in taking the oath to tell the truth in court.
* *Sketch Artist*: You will be responsible for creating images the crime scene, the alleged crime as it took place according to the plaintiff and the events taking place in the courtroom. You can draw on paper, or you can use your computer to create the images (ex: Microsoft paint).
* *Defense Attorney*: You are responsible for fighting for the defendant to prove that he / she is not guilty. You will look over the evidence and develop a strategy alongside the defendant and any fellow defense attorneys to win the case. You will then present your argument in court to attempt to convince the jury that you are right.
* *Prosecuting Attorney*: You are responsible for fighting for the plaintiff to prove that the defendant is guilty of the crime(s) of which he / she is accused of. You will look over the evidence and develop a strategy alongside the plaintiff and any fellow prosecution attorneys to win the case. You will then present your argument in court to attempt to convince the jury that you are right.
* *Jury*: You are responsible for weighing all of the evidence and arguments presented in court, then deciding alongside other jury members whether or not the defendant is guilty or innocent.
* *Media*: You are responsible for conducting interviews with attorneys and the sketch artist, gathering all the available information you know about what is happening with the trial, and then creating ways to present that information to others (Ex: News Video, Online News Article, Printed Out Newspaper Article, Twitter Updates, etc.). Essentially, you are a news reporter keeping the public informed about the trial.