

Mock Trial

MARCH 2009

Hello to future mock trial participants and parents!

Mock trial is a critical thinking course that culminates in presenting a real case before a sitting judge. Here at the Challenge B level in the Sharonville, Ohio, community, students and tutor participate in weekly discussions about the various witness statements and the various responsibilities of the student attorneys. After all of the facts of the case are discussed, students work together formulating questions for the witnesses and practicing them. The opening and closing statements for each side are created by all students in the class. So, whether a student is assigned the part of a witness or of an attorney, he is well acquainted with the case through these weekly assignments. About half-way through the course, students choose three roles that they would like to play the day of the mock trial. The tutor then has the responsibility of assigning roles based upon both completed weekly assignments and the students' natural abilities to dramatize a particular role.

Once the roles are assigned and there are two teams, one team presenting for the prosecution and one team presenting for the defense, students practice in their assigned teams for the remainder of the semester. Practices are held both inside and outside of class. The motivation for practice comes from the heightened expectation of appearing before a real judge in order to win their case!

This year's mock trial will take place at 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at the *Government Services Center, 315 High Street, Hamilton, Ohio, 45011*. There is a parking garage immediately behind the building that has a walkway that goes over Court Street into the Government Services Center. As true of all government buildings, attendees will need to go through a security station on the second floor before making their way to the fourth-floor courtroom of Butler County Common Pleas Court.

All junior high and high school students and their families are invited to join us.

We hope to see you there!
Beth Hill
Challenge B Director