

The Crucible Mock Trial- The People Versus Deputy Governor Danforth

Description: It has been a decade since the execution of the 19 innocent people, as evidenced in *The Crucible*. The families of the deceased have signed a petition demanding charges of first degree murder against Deputy Governor Danforth. This court will preside to determine lawfully the counts of first degree murder, second degree murder, and manslaughter against judge Danforth to determine his sentence.

Categories of murder

1. Planned murder or First Degree Murder - is a murder committed with the intention of taking the life of another, by a person fully sane and aware of what he or she is doing, and having planned the act of murder ahead.
2. Intentional murder or Second Degree Murder - is a murder committed with the intention of taking the life of another, by a person fully sane and aware of what he or she is doing, without the act of murder having been planned ahead. Murder of passion usually falls into this category.
3. Murder as a result of neglect or manslaughter - is defined as a case where someone has been killed as a result of the offenders neglect.

Groups:

Prosecution:

Objective: Get as many 1st degree murder convictions as possible.

- 4 Attorneys
 - One attorney must present a 3-minute opening, and a 3-minute closing.
 - Remember to rehearse with the witnesses on your side and to prepare cross-examination questions for the opposing side.
- Maximum of 5 witnesses
 - By the end of class, please identify your 5 witnesses and write their names on the board.
 - Remember, your witnesses can be cross-examined.
 - Each witness will be examined and cross examined for a maximum of 5 minutes.
- Grades for the Prosecution will be based on the questions asked of the witnesses and the opening and closing speeches. Questions should display preparation and knowledge of the text.

Defense:

Objective: Get as many lesser verdicts (not guilty, 2nd degree murder, or manslaughter) as possible.

- 4 Attorneys
 - One attorney must present a 3-minute opening, and a 3-minute closing.
 - Remember to rehearse with the witnesses on your side, and to prepare cross-examination questions for the opposing side.
- Maximum of 5 witnesses
 - By the end of class, please identify your 5 witnesses and write their names on the board.
 - Remember, your witnesses can be cross-examined.
 - Each witness will be examined and cross examined for a maximum of 5 minutes.
- Grades for the Prosecution will be based on the questions asked of the witnesses and the opening and closing speeches. Questions should display preparation and knowledge of the text.

Jury:

- Take notes during the trial. You must go home and construct a written explanation of what you have seen in court, and evaluating and analyzing what you have seen, and how well it presented the information in the book.
- Only the Head Juror will speak publicly. He/she must present the jury's findings ("We, the jury, find Deputy Governor Danforth guilty on _ counts" or "We, the jury, find Deputy Governor Danforth not guilty on all counts.")
- Grades for the jury will be based on a 1-page, double-spaced evaluation of the trial. Jury members must explain in writing what should have been proved by the prosecution and what was actually proved. The same should be written out for the defense. Then a verdict should be rendered for each of the 19 victims: Not guilty, 1st or 2nd degree murder, or Manslaughter.

Court Rules:

- All witnesses will only have knowledge of what is present in the text, and must remain in character at all times. Witnesses may lie or be emotional and evasive, as real witnesses would be. They may also be caught in their lies
- All evidence must be present in the text, and the user must be able to provide the page #.
- Please be prepared and in character—dress officially and in character, and bring evidence if necessary.
- Language must be appropriate for a courtroom. No foul language or gestures may be used. The judge must be addressed as “your honor.”

What you will be graded on:

Prosecution and Defense Attorneys:

- Preparation (20 points)
 - Well-rehearsed opening statement full of knowledge.
 - Shows evidence of witness and lawyers working together on an argument to use in court.
 - Notes may be used by attorneys, but not witnesses. Do not read from notes or you will be marked off.
- Presentation (20 points)
 - Engaging, eye contact, good acting.
 - Clear, well spoken
- Accuracy (20 points)
 - Shows understanding of information present in the text, and uses it effectively
 - Shows detailed analysis of the text.

YOU WILL NOT BE GRADED ON WHETHER OR NOT YOU WIN OR LOSE THE CASE.

Witnesses:

- Preparation (20 points)
 - Each witness must show that they are fully knowledgeable of their role in the text and aware of all actions the text claims they have committed. (No notes)
- Presentation (20 points)
 - Engaging, eye contact, good acting.
 - Clear, well spoken.
- Accuracy (20 points)
 - Shows understanding of the character shown in the text, and the character’s psychological motivations in the text.

Jury Report: (1 page typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins)

- Case Notes – should indicate that student was paying attention in class
- Prosecution Evaluation (20 points)
 - What should the prosecution have proved?
 - What did the team prove? What did they not prove?
- Defense Evaluation (20 points)
 - What should the defense have proved?
 - What did the team prove? What did they not prove?
- Verdicts
 - Out of the 19 hanged, how many verdicts are not guilty, 1st Degree, 2nd Degree, and Manslaughter?
- Technical (20 points)
 - Writing must be clear and have proper grammar and mechanics. Paper needs correct formatting and font.
 - Must include notes, evaluations, and verdicts.

