

Each group in your class has been given a geometry proof to solve. You have been accused of not solving your case properly. The prosecution may be accusing you of not using the best or most efficient methods in solving your proof. They may be even accusing you of using inaccurate or illegal methods to solve your proof. Your job is to defend and convince the jury, beyond a reasonable doubt, that you have solved this proof in the most effective way using your expertise of geometric law, which includes definitions, properties, postulates and theorems. Also feel free to include research from other problems or cases.

Your groups will decide who plays each of your roles in court. Your role cards include some suggestions for your convenience, but they are only suggestions. There will be two trial teams – one representing the prosecution and the other representing the defense. The Prosecution team will have one Prosecuting Attorney and two assistants (or one assistant and one witness). The Defense will have one Defense Attorney and one defendant and one witness or assistant. The two teams facing court together will decide who the Bailiff will be. The remaining students will serve as jurors, decide the final verdict at the end of trial, and write up the basis for their verdict.

This project is a fun way to challenge and debate against your friends and classmates – and to dig in to and expand your knowledge of geometry content as much as possible.

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Trial Roles

- 1. Judge (teacher)**
 - Ultimate arbiter of the trial, the judge will oversee the jury and overall order of the court.
- 2. Prosecuting Attorney (one student)**
 - The prosecuting attorney is the person who files a case/lawsuit against another in a court of law. In this case, the the prosecution is the National Geometric Government, the governing body that assures the laws of geometry are enforced and never misrepresented or abused. The burden is on the prosecution to prove there has been misconduct in the solving of this proof.
- 3. Defendant (one student from your group)**
 - The defendant is the person or group accused of ineffectively or inappropriately using geometric law in solving their proof. The defendant claims that their method of solving the proof was effective and fair, and therefore not illegal.
- 4. Defendant's Attorney (one student from your group)**
 - The defendant's attorney presents the defendant's response/method of solving the proof and tries to dismiss the plaintiff's claims.
- 5. Witness (one student from your group)**
 - Either side may call a witness to help convince the jurors of your position. They may be an expert in the area of Geometry or they may have been involved in finding the solution that is in question.
- 6. Assistants to the Attorneys (one or two students from your group)**
 - Either side may have assistants that can support and guide the attorneys as they present the case to the court. You may ask to pause and confer with the attorney during the trial.
- 7. Bailiff (one student outside the groups competing – agreed upon by both groups)**
 - Should announce Judge and court members and swear in anyone taking the stand
- 8. Jurors (remaining students)**
 - Neutral "finders of fact." Jurors are members of the community who will together determine which side actually has the best solution based on the evidence presented at trial.
 - For the sake of the mock trial the "Judge/(teacher)" can be called by the jury to help with the arbitration of the case.

Courtroom Setting

Group # _____ Prosecution

Case # _____ Defense

Court Roles	Name of Person Assigned
Judge	
Bailiff	
Defense Attorney: It is this person's job to defend the person accused of improper use of geometric law. They must prove the geometric case was solved, beyond the shadow of a doubt, using the most effective solution methods and without breaking any geometric law.	
Defendant: This person is the criminal accused of not using the proper methods to solve a geometric problem and/or misrepresenting or breaking the laws of geometry.	
Prosecution Attorney: This government appointed attorney must prove that the accused person broke the geometric law and definitely did not use the proper, or best, methods to solve the geometric case.	
Assistant(s) to the Prosecutor	
Witness(es)	
Jury Members	

Preparing for Trial

1. Help your team's attorneys prepare opening statements.
 - a. The opening statement is the attorneys' first memorable pitch to the jury. Attorneys should appear confident and give clear evidence. Focus on the following questions and write an opening statement that lists three or four main evidence points:
 - i. What is the lawsuit about? (What were you trying to prove?)
 - ii. What's your client's position?
 - iii. Why is the other side wrong? (give specifics, cast doubt)
2. Prepare testimony for the prosecution or defense, prepare questions for the cross-examination.
 - a. Some questions to think about are:
 - i. Who is this person? What is his or her story?
 - ii. Why was this person charged?
 - iii. What does this person know or not know about what they were trying to prove?
 - iv. How well does this person understand the Geometry that supports solving this proof?
3. Think of three questions to ask the plaintiff or defendant on the other team that might undermine the other side's claims (specific to the proof).
 - a. Anticipate questions that the other side's attorneys will ask during the cross-examination.
4. Help your team's attorney prepare closing statements.
 - a. Highlight and restate the three or four main points for your case and the testimony that backs up this evidence. Remember, this is your last chance to prove your case to the court and to undermine your opponent's case.
 - i. Why should the jury rule in your favor?
 - ii. How did your client's testimony support your evidence?
 - iii. Why is your case a stronger, better argument?

Trial Schedule and Assignments

1. **Opening Statements** (3-5 minutes for each side)
 - Prosecuting Attorney gives opening statement.
 - Defendant's Attorney gives opening statement

2. **Testimony and Presentation of the “Proof” by the Defense** (10-15 min) Defendant's Attorney calls defendant to the stand and together they work to present their position in the case. Attorney should use guiding questions to communicate their message to the Jurors and Judge.

3. **Testimony and Cross-Exam by Prosecution** (10-15 min)
 - Plaintiff's Attorney cross-examination of defendant.

4. **Closing Arguments** (3 min each side)
 - Defendant's Attorney gives closing argument.
 - Prosecution's Attorney gives closing argument.

5. **Jury Deliberations** (5 min)
 - Jury discusses case and reaches verdict.
 - Verdict is written down and handed to Judge.
 - Judge reads verdict to class.

6. **Post-Trial Debrief** (5 min)
 - Teacher debriefs student jury verdict with the class.

Proposed Court Room Schedule

This schedule assumes ten groups of three – the latter proof cases are shorter.

Sorted by group number

Group (Case #)	Prosecution in Court	Defense in Court
#1	Day 5	Day 4
#2	Day 4	Day 5
#3	Day 5	Day 4
#4	Day 4	Day 6
#5	Day 7	Day 5
#6	Day 6	Day 7
#7	Day 7	Day 6
#8	Day 6	Day 7
#9	Day 7	Day 6
#10	Day 6	Day 7

OR

Sorted by day

Day	Prosecution in Court	Defense in Court
4	Group #2 Group #4	Group #1 Group #3
5	Group #1 Group #3	Group #2 Group #5
6	Group #6 Group #8 Group #10	Group #4 Group #7 Group #9
7	Group #5 Group #7 Group #9	Group #6 Group #8 Group #10