

Additional Activities

Title of Activity	Mock Trial
Type of Activity	Kinesthetic, possibly multi-grade
Suggested Subjects / Courses	Best suited for gr.12 Law but can be adapted for other senior courses Language senior courses (English, French) - written preparation, written follow-up and oral language Senior Drama
Description of activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As an introductory lesson, use legal case presented in the biographies (eg. Lavell case) as an example as you explain to the class that they will be participating in a mock trial - it is at this point where you would discuss what students could do if they begin to feel uncomfortable (due to a trigger) 2. As a class, develop the list of different roles for the students. A possible list of roles are: 1 defendant (or person presenting case) 2 lawyers (for/against); 2 lawyer assistants (1 per side); 1 judge; 6 jurors; 5-7 witnesses (for both sides); 1 court reporter 3. Depending on class size, a class can be split into 2 with two mock trials 4. Once the groups have been created, groups are to choose their court case from the list provided 5. Provide support to students while the students choose their roles - based on student interest and also what the student is comfortable with (taking the role of 'witness' or 'defendant' may be triggering to some students) 6. Provide students 3+ periods to prepare for the court case; meeting as often as possible with students to provide ongoing descriptive feedback 7. As a class decide on how best to set up the classroom - specific places for 1) judge 2) both sides of case 3) jurors 4) witness area 5) spectators *If available, you could consider requesting use of an alternative room, such as the library
Notes	<p>Although the original activity is created by basing the mock trial on an actual legal case that has occurred in Ontario, a teacher may adapt this to a variety of scenarios based on student interest. For example, students may choose a topic or theme (ie. gender based violence) then create a legal case around a fictional event.</p> <p>Also important to note is that depending on the subject matter, it may be a trigger for one or more students, therefore it is essential that there be an introductory discussion to the activity allowing students time to reflect and reach out to you for support. A teacher would benefit from having an alternative activity for students who would be unable to participate.</p> <p>If students choose a legal case from over a decade ago (ie. marital rape law change 1983), they need to be instructed to take into considerations today's</p>

	realities in their mock trial.
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