



GRADE 5 - Government, Courts, & You

Featuring a court-house field trip, *or*
a Harry Potter civil court mock trial!



Class-time: 2-4 class periods *and* a field trip or mock trial.

Topics: Teaches people in courts, processes, and the differences between criminal and civil court.

Worth noting: Students either attend a field trip where they watch live criminal proceedings and speak with a judge, or hold mock trials with Harry Potter characters (in costume)!

For more information or to request a resource, contact our Program Director at mkamer@projectrealnv.org or 702.703.6529

Or visit:

<http://projectrealnv.org>



Government, Courts, & You: Grade 5 Experience Options & Summary

A free field trip or costumed mock trial experience for 5th grade students throughout Nevada!

'Government, Courts, & You (Grade 5)' is an experience from Project REAL that takes place over the course of a few class periods and is available to all Southern Nevada schools. Using the resources we provide, you will teach your students about courts, the people in them, and key elements of the American justice system (ie the difference between criminal and civil courts, and the difference between state and federal courts). After preparing your students with basic information about courts, they will either go to watch live criminal proceedings on a fieldtrip to the courts, or participate in a costumed mock trial at school in a case involving many of your favorite Harry Potter-verse characters!

Part 1: Pre-test

Students take the 10 minute pre-test before the student books are used in class. The test asks simple questions to determine how much a student knows about the courts before participating in our program.

Part 2: Student books

Students read the Your Day in Court student guides to become familiar with the roles of the courts and their processes. Students will also become familiarized with the roles of the people who make the courts work.

Part 3: Field Trip or Costumed Mock Trial

Option 1: Students attend a field trip to local courts where they will watch live criminal proceedings, and then participate in an extensive Q&A session with a Federal Judge!

Option 2: If no fieldtrip dates are available, your class will sign-up for a Harry Potter mock trial.

- Project REAL provides Costumes, scripts, props, and more!
- You + The students set up the classroom to resemble a courtroom.
- Stronger readers assigned to 'speaking' roles.
- Students with beginner/developing reading levels assigned to the jury pool.
- Students perform the civil-case sequel to our 4th grade mock trial.
- If class hasn't done 4th grade, add-a-day and start with the 4th grade Criminal Case first
- ...if taking this option, have the weaker/developing readers in the reading roles!
- Each trial session ends w/ student questions.

Part 4: Wrap-up

Students take the 10 minute post-test after participating in any of our 5th grade activities. The test asks simple questions to determine how much a student knows about the courts after participating in our activities. Then, they write 'thank you' letters to the judges or volunteers that helped facilitate the experience - The thank-you's and the test participation are the only requirement (and costs, if you wish to call them that) for receiving this free activity from Project REAL!

To sign-up or request more information, contact Project REAL's Program Director at mkamer@projectrealnv.org or 702.703.6529

Or

Visit <http://projectrealnv.org>



Government, Courts, and You

Your Day in Court

Types of Courts

- Civil Court
- Criminal Court



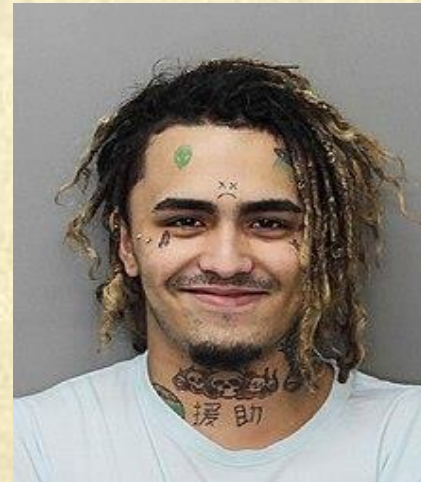
Civil Court

- Best way to remember Civil Court is 'people vs people.'
- Civil Court is where people sue each other.



Criminal Court

- Best way to remember Criminal Court is 'government vs. people.'
- Criminal Court = jail and prison time
- Money that needs to be paid goes to the government, and not *directly* to the victims (though the government may pay them through victim's funds).



Differences of Courts

- In Criminal courts, cases are filed / brought by Prosecutors.
- In Civil Court, cases are filed / brought by Plaintiffs.
- There are also differences for burden of proof and the number of jury members: Ask about those on your field trip!



Government, Courts, and You

Your Day in Court

What **NOT** to Wear in Court

- No shorts
- No flip-flops
- No backpacks
- No hats, headgear, kitty ears
- No hoodies (hoods must be tucked in the entire field trip)



What to Wear in Court

- Dress to impress!
- Dress clothes will be appreciate, but not required.



Do **NOT** Bring to Court

- No food, drinks, backpacks
- No pens, notepads, headphones, phones, for all students grades 5-8.



What if I bring those items?

- If they are brought along they will need to be left in the bus.
- If brought into the courts, it will cause your group to not see live courts.
- YES to EMPTY POCKETS!



Courthouse Environment

- Project REAL is only allowed to bring you to the courts to observe live court.
- We cannot ask lawyers, judges, and clients about their day to day business.
- We cannot ask people in the courthouse to censor or control certain behaviors (swearing).
- Content of the court cases you see may be shocking – please behave and respond like young adults. We appreciate it, and so will the rest of the courthouse guests and employees.



PRESENTS

GOVERNMENT, COURTS, & YOU

A guide for
Your Day in Court
State and Federal Courthouse
Field Trips

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INTRODUCTION TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

“Ignorance of The Law is no defense for breaking it”

— Any lawyer that’s ever passed a bar exam

No matter what grade we reach you at or what activity of ours you’re participating in, the one message we at Project REAL will repeat over-and-over to you is that you need to ‘think within the law’.

This guide is used with our *Your Day in Court* field trips. It is designed to give you a basic overview of how the state and federal courts work, and the people that work in them.

Sometime around 6th grade, students begin to have more time that is unsupervised by adults. Those amounts of time only increase as students grow older. By the time they’ve reached 12th grade, they’re well on their way to living on their own.

With growing independence comes a need to think before acting on ideas. If you think getting music for free online sounds too good to be true, that’s because it is: you’d be committing a federal crime! Graffiti may be an artistic outlet but it won’t just get you grounded; you can be charged with felony larceny depending on how much damage you do.

You may not be in a class that teaches you all of the laws you need to know about, but here is one thing you absolutely need to know: If you get caught breaking any law and explain “I didn’t know it was a crime! It’s not fair for me to be punished”, that may be true...but it won’t do you any good!

Under the law, you are still accountable for your actions and responsible for your decisions. No one can be expected to memorize every law, but you what can do is think before acting out, and exercise good judgement. If you think something might be illegal, don’t do it. If it turns out whatever you had in mind was allowable, you can always get to it after you know for certain that you won’t be putting your freedom at risk.

Good lawyers aren’t cheap, jail isn’t fun, and civil judgements (payments made after being successfully sued by someone else) are rarely affordable. Keep that in mind before you do something that you might choose not do if you were to stop and exercise a bit of caution and judgement first.

Now, let’s get you ready for your field trip!

THE COURTS

Why do we Learn About the Courts and Justice?

The Preamble to the Constitution states that one of the main purposes of our government is to establish justice in our nation. The purpose of justice is fairness, yet it is often hard to determine what is fair. One of the ways our government ensures justice is through **due process**. This is the system which makes sure that all people have equal treatment and that all laws are followed during the legal process. For example, all individuals accused of a crime are entitled to a lawyer, trial by jury, and knowing why they have been charged with a crime.

There are three branches of government at the federal level that work to ensure our laws remain fair including:

1. The Executive Branch, which includes the office of the President
2. The Legislative Branch, which includes the Senate and the House of Representatives
3. The Judicial branch, which includes the courts

Nevada's government is divided the same way, with the executive or Governor's office, the state legislature and the state courts. In this guide, we will focus on the federal and state court systems.

People often turn to the courts to resolve legal disputes based on the law. Our laws come from many sources. Both the United States Constitution and the fifty state constitutions set forth laws and establish our structure of government. Legislative branches also create laws. The courts interpret laws and rule on matters concerning the law in a fair and correct manner. It is the job of the Executive Branch to enforce the laws.

What is a Court?

A court is an official public setting that a government establishes in order to resolve disputes and disagreements while administering justice under the law. There are different courts at federal, state and local levels including **civil**, **criminal**, juvenile, domestic and traffic cases.

What are Eight Reasons for Courts?

1. To determine fair outcomes in individual cases
2. To uphold justice and public trust in our judicial system
3. To provide a meeting place to resolve legal disputes
4. To protect individuals from the misuse of government power
5. To provide an official record of legal actions
6. To place a check on criminal behavior
7. To order treatment, when appropriate, for persons convicted of crimes
8. To separate persons convicted of crimes from society when appropriate

Information adapted from the National Center for State Courts



What are the Two Court Systems in the United States?

- Federal courts are established by the U.S. Constitution to decide disputes concerning the U.S. Constitution and laws passed by Congress, as well as arguments between two or more state governments.
- Each state in this country has its own constitution. It is in the state constitution that a state court system is created and these courts operate at the state, county and city level. Most of the state court decisions involve that state's constitution and laws.

How are the Federal and State Courts Alike?

- The federal court and Nevada court systems must follow the provisions of the U.S. Constitution and provide people with the right to a jury trial in a timely fashion.
- Both systems use a court structure that includes juries and judges who determine the innocence or guilt of the accused.
- A supreme court exists in both the federal and Nevada court systems. The U.S. Supreme Court is the highest court in the nation and the Nevada Supreme Court is the highest court in our state. Both can change (overturn) decisions made by lower courts.
- Both court systems have courts for specific purposes. For example, family court only exists in the Nevada court system and there is a **bankruptcy** court only in the federal system.
- In all **criminal cases** at both the federal and state levels, the government is always the prosecutor and brings the charges against the accused.



How are the Federal and State Courts Different?

- **Jurisdiction** is a very important word in both court systems. The U.S. and state Constitutions grant each court **jurisdiction**, or the legal power to hear and decide a certain type of case. The types of cases are very different in the two court systems.

For example, if a state law is broken, such as during a burglary, the case is tried in a state district court. If a federal crime occurs such as counterfeiting money, the trial will take place in a U.S. district court.

- The main job of the federal courts is to make sure the U.S. Constitution is not violated.
- State courts handle the largest number of cases, including murder, certain types of robberies, traffic violations, broken agreements, and family disputes.
- There are only about 1,500 federal court judges in the country who resolve approximately one million cases a year; while there are almost 30,000 state judges handling more than 27 million cases a year – not including traffic and parking violations.



What are the Two Types of Cases that are Heard in Courts?

- Cases in both federal and state courts that involve the breaking of a law intended to protect society are **criminal cases** and may result in punishment including prison and/or fines.
- Cases that involve disputes between two parties are called **civil cases** and may involve a disagreement between individuals, an individual and an organization (including the state or federal government), or between two or more states. These cases may involve financial payments and damages that must be decided by a court.

In both types of cases you will see:

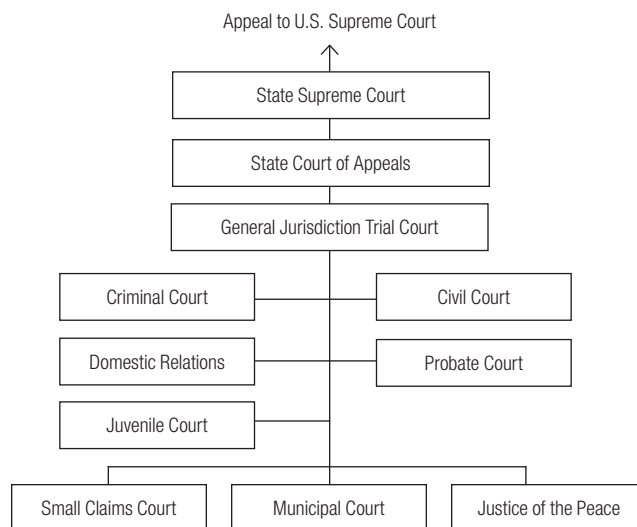
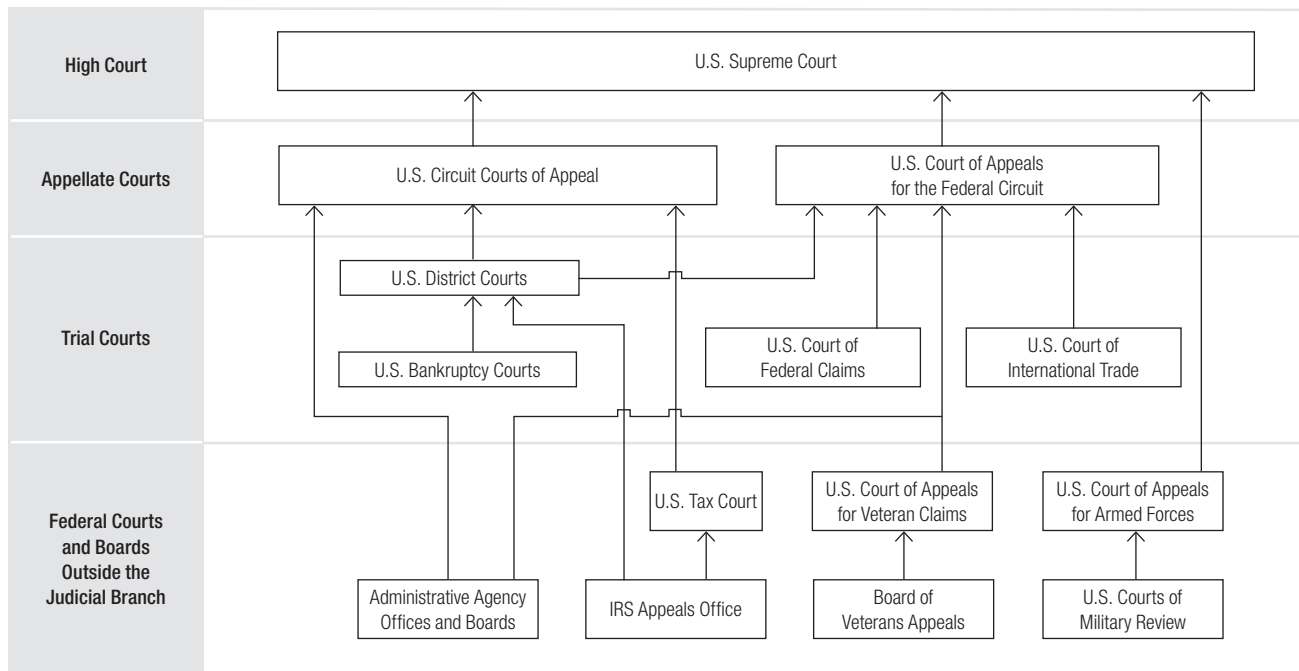
- Individuals or attorneys presenting their side of the argument (along with any evidence and **witness testimony**)
- The judge or jury reaching a decision as to which side has won its case
- A set procedure for deciding a punishment or an amount of payment if the person or organization is found guilty. In a **criminal case** this might involve a fine and/or jail or prison time. In a **civil case** the decision may involve one individual or organization making a payment to the other.

What are the Differences Between a Civil Case and a Criminal Case?

- The number of persons seated on a jury in a criminal trial is usually twelve. In a civil trial, the number can range between four and twelve, depending on the court and the nature of the case.
- In a **criminal case**, a conviction results in punishment of some kind (for the crime, you do the time) whereas in a civil case decision, only financial responsibility would be involved.

COURT OF APPEALS

On November 4, 2014, Nevada Voters approved the creation of a Court of Appeals by allowing an amendment to Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution. This unique court will hear roughly one-third of all cases submitted to the Nevada Supreme Court in a defective model, where the Supreme Court will assign cases to a three-judge Court of Appeals. This is similar to systems used in other states, including Iowa, Idaho, and Mississippi. Prior to this change, the Supreme Court heard all appeals, including everything from murder convictions to appeals of driver's license revocations. The judges that will take cases in the Court of Appeals include Michael Gibbons, Jerome Tao and Abbi Silver.





Courthouse Fieldtrips

2019-2020 School Year Requirements

*Booking, Bus Reimbursement & Other Vital Info
for Teachers & Chaperones*

Before You Book

Before booking your field-trip, please be sure to take these field-trip requirements and restrictions into account.

- 1) This year, each school will only be able to book 2 dates for field trips
- 2) A minimum of 60 students must attend each field trip, and a maximum of 90 students may attend each trip
- 3) Thank you letters specific to the judges your students saw are required as part of the bus reimbursement process.
- 4) Each field trip must be booked and attended by someone with an account in our myvolunteerpage.com account
- 5) All Adults attending the field trip must sign the last page, and bring that page with them to the field trip. They need to provide it to the Project REAL field trip host immediately upon arriving at the courthouse.
- 6) Any teacher that has booked a fieldtrip is responsible for ensuring every other adult attending (teacher, chaperone, administrator, or other guest) has read the full policies and procedures guide prior to their attending our field trip.

10 Steps to Success

Make sure you are ready to take on each of the following items in the order they're listed in before booking fieldtrips for your school.

1. Read the 'YDIC - Full Policies' guide []
2. Book your fieldtrip with Project REAL []
3. Book the bus using the following info: []
Arrive at 201 E Clark Ave, LV, NV between 9:35am – 9:50am
Depart from 392 S. 6th St, LV, NV 89101 between 12:30pm – 12:45pm
4. Issue the pre-test to all students attending the field trip. []
Test must be taken online, written copies will not be accepted
<http://bit.ly/ydicpreexam>
5. Use the 'Your Day in Court' guides in class for 2-3 days. []
6. Email the 'YDiC – Full Policies' guide to all adults attending the trip, and explain they are required to read it before the trip. []
7. Assign students into *as few groups as possible*, with []
 - no less than 50 students per trip,
 - no more than 90 students
 - no more than 20 students per group
- 7.1 If more than 60 students on a trip, select which group(s) will remain at the RJC as an "XL group" []
 - 1 group of students if 61-80 students are on the trip**
 - 2 groups of students if 81-90 students are on the trip**
8. Attend the trip, then have students write thank you letters []
9. Issue the post-test to all students attending the field trip. []
Test must be taken online, written copies will not be accepted
<http://bit.ly/ydicpostexam>
10. Review Bus Reimbursement Policies, and proceed as instructed []

TESTING TESTING TESTING!

(Fear not: they typically take less than 10 minutes for students to complete)



If we don't receive pre-tests and post-tests results equal to at least 90% of the amount of students we are told will be in attendance at the time of each trip booking, your school will be disqualified from receiving a bus reimbursement for the school year.

Pre-test:

<http://bit.ly/ydicpreexam>

Please have your students take the pre-test before the field-trip AND before the book is used in class.

The Book:

You must review our 'Your Day in Court' guides with your students after the pre-test and before the trip.

Post-test:

<http://bit.ly/ydicpostexam>

Please have your students take the post-test after the field-trip AND after the book has been used in class.

Post-tests should be completed within 45 days of the field trip and BEFORE you request the bus-transportation reimbursement for your school.

BOOKING YOUR BUSES!

The info you need to get your busses to the right locations at the right times!



Drop Off - From School to Court: *201 E Clark Ave. 9:35am-9:50am*

ONLY use the Clark Ave. entrance to enter. Ignore the fact that the door says jurors and lawyers only. It should look like the picture above

**IF YOUR SCHOOL USES THE LEWIS AVE ENTRANCE,
YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A BUS REIMBURSEMENT AND
THE SCHOOL WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM BOOKING A FIELD TRIP
WITH US FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**



Pick Up - From Court back to School: *392 S. 6th St at 12:30-12:35pm*

Bus drivers MUST be waiting for the kids on the EAST side of 6th street only, NOT the west side, and not before 12:30pm. If this is an issue, have the field-trip booking office manager contact us immediately. Once they are parked, the above picture should be there view

**IF YOUR TRIPS' BUS BLOCKS THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE ENTRNACE,
YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A BUS REIMBURSEMENT AND
THE SCHOOL WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM BOOKING A FIELD TRIP
WITH US FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

Don't Lose Your Bus Reimbursement

(or your school's place with us next year):

About Our Thank You Letter Requirement

Each student needs to write a thank you letter to one of the judges whose courtroom they visited.

After your trip, we will send instructions for our bus reimbursement process. Those will include the last 4 digits of the phone number for each adult on the trip, and the judges those adults took kids to see.

Each student needs to write their own thank you letter: Sending one long letter signed by students, or a card with small messages like a big 'get-well' shindig will not meet this requirement.

The individual experiences are what keep the judges motivated to have us in their courtrooms, so we need them. Please contact us with any questions. Thank you.



and

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT OF NEVADA

present

D. MALFOY
V.
R. WEASLEY

A Civil Mock Trial

Grade 5 – Student Edition

THE CAST

Court Staff

Judge #1

Judge #2

Court Clerk

The Marshal

The Prosecution Team: Draco Malfoy

Plaintiff Atty #1

Plaintiff Atty #2

Witness: Vincent Crabbe

Witness: Rubeus Hagrid

Victim: Draco Malfoy

The Defense Team: Ron Weasley

Defense Lawyer #1

Defense Lawyer #2

Witness: Hermione Granger

Witness: Harry Potter

Defendant: Ron Weasley

The Jury

Each of the members of the Jury!

Teacher / Room Host

***'Last Time' Recap
&***

SCENE:

As some of you may recall, last year Harry Potter had been charged with the illegal use of magic by the Ministry of Magic. Draco Malfoy had been enjoying his lunch when he and Mr. Potter got into an argument. During that argument, a spell suddenly landed on Draco, transforming him into a pink Chihuahua!

Since students using magic to harm other students is a crime and it appeared Harry Potter was responsible, Harry was nearly sent to the magical prison Azkaban because he had been in a situation where he looked guilty!

Harry was eventually found not guilty though, when it was revealed through testimony that Mr. Potter's friend Ron Weasley had been practicing spell-casting during his lunch period with some pink and furry results. Ron had been aiming for the Whomping Willow Tree, and did not intend to turn Draco into a Pink Chihuahua, however Ron's wand doesn't always work well – a fact many of his fellow students are familiar with.

The trial revealed that it was Ron's spell that accidentally turned Draco into a pink puppy! Since Ron did not mean to transform Draco, he will not face criminal charges. Draco is still mad though because of the pain and embarrassment he suffered when he was transformed, so he has decided to sue Ron in civil court.

Now we have all been magically transported to a courthouse somewhere between London and the magical little town near Hogwarts, and the case of Draco Malfoy v. Ron Weasley is going to trial!

Mr. Malfoy has brought about a law suit against Mr. Weasley.

Mr. Malfoy is suing Mr. Weasley for causing him pain and suffering after transforming Mr. Malfoy into a pink Chihuahua.

Mr. Malfoy and his attorneys are seated at the plaintiff's table.

Mr. Weasley is sitting at the defense table with his attorneys.

MARSHALL: All rise. Department 3 of the 8th Judicial District Court is now in session, the Honorable _____ presiding. Please be seated, turn off all cell phones, make sure all wands are safely put away and come to order.

JUDGE #1: This is the case of Draco Malfoy v. Ron Weasley. As I understand the case, the charge against Mr. Weasley is that he has caused pain and suffering to a fellow student by transforming the plaintiff, Draco Malfoy, into a pink Chihuahua. If my understanding is correct, we will proceed with the trial. The plaintiffs may give their opening statements.

PLAINTIFF ATTY #1: Your Honor and members of the jury, today we will show that our client, Draco Malfoy, was embarrassed, hurt, and unjustly transformed into a pink Chihuahua by the reckless nature of the defendant, Mr. Ron Weasley.

You will hear that Mr. Weasley irresponsibly uses a broken wand to cast spells while knowing that the spells cast from the broken wand can have unpredictable or even dangerous results. You will also learn that Mr. Weasley let his best friend face criminal charges, in the hopes that it will cover up his responsibility in harming our client, Mr. Malfoy.

We understand and you will hear that Mr. Weasley did not intend to harm our client, but Mr. Weasley's intentions don't matter. At the end of the day, our client was transformed into a pink Chihuahua for all of Hogwarts to see. The pain of this transformation, and the pain of the humiliation that Mr. Malfoy had to go through is the reason why we are here today.

The fact is, Mr. Weasley knew his wand was dangerous and used it anyways despite the risk it posed on the other young witches and wizards just trying to go about their day in school. Mr. Weasley's irresponsible decisions are exactly why he should be found responsible for this senseless violence, and why you should find in favor of our client at the end of today's trial.

Thank you. That is all, your honor.

JUDGE #1: Thank you counselor.

The defense may now give an opening statement.

DEFENSE LAWYER #1: Thank you, your honor. Good morning member of the jury. You just heard a summary of why we are here today and all of the facts that were stated were true, but there was an opinion we disagree with. That is the opinion that our client, Mr. Weasley, is responsible for what happened.

Young Mr. Weasley is an excellent student and an excellent wizard who was simply doing what all good witches and wizards do when they are students, which is preparing for class and studying for exams.

We agree that someone should be held responsible for what has happened to Mr. Malfoy, but that responsibility should not fall on Mr. Weasley. In fact, today we will show you that it was the failure of Hogwarts to provide a safe learning environment, and their decision not to accommodate Mr. Weasley's request for a different test date that led to this unfortunate incident. Finally, you will see that responsibility does need to be assigned, but this is not a case about justice and not what brings us to the court today.

No, today we are here because the plaintiff is a bully with a grudge against my client, Ron Weasley, and his two best friends, Harry Potter and Hermione Granger.

This lawsuit is not about justice, it is about using the law to try to hurt someone. That is why we will ask that you will find in favor of our client, and not assign responsibility for this incident unjustly to him.

Thank you. Thank you Your Honor. That is all we have.

JUDGE #1:

Thank you counselors for your opening statements. Those are some conflicting introductions, so I think we should take a moment to think on them for a bit. Now, we will take a short recess, and the plaintiffs will call their first witnesses when we return.

JUDGE uses the gavel.

RECESS #1

JUDGE #2: Witches and Wizards of the jury, we are now finished with the presentation of witnesses and evidence. It is time for closing arguments. We will begin with argument on behalf of the plaintiff, Draco Malfoy.

PLAINTIFF ATTY #2: Thank you your honor. Members of the jury, today you learned about the tragic day my client was forced to suffer because the defendant carelessly, recklessly, and knowingly used a faulty wand while practicing spells

That reckless decision led to my client – Mr. Malfoy – spending the day as a pink Chihuahua and being humiliated in front of his fellow classmates. Though young Draco changed back to normal the next day and had only been a Chihuahua for a few hours, the trauma and embarrassment lasted for months after the spell landed on him! We are having this trial *months* after that day, and still he suffers!

A witch or wizard who knowingly uses a faulty wand is as dangerous as a wizard casting spells while blindfolded! If the criminal courts will not convict a young magical person for such careless behavior, than it is up to you – members of the jury – to ensure that Ron Weasley is punished the way he deserves to be! Mr. Weasley himself confessed to knowing that his wand was flawed while under oath here in this very courtroom!

The defense has tried to convince you that Hogwarts should be the responsible party, and that the school should be forced to pay my client for the pain and embarrassment he continues to suffer from. That is their job as lawyers for the defendant – shift the blame.

Let's look at the facts though:

Fact: Other students at the school have used the Whomping Willow as practice, yet we heard of no other students being hurt by spells sent flying by its arms.

Fact: It wasn't just Ron that knew his wand was faulty – even his close friends admit to being worried about some of Ron's spell casting. Clearly Mr. Weasley cannot say he never expected such a thing to happen.

Fact: Ron's own friends say they would not practice new spells in crowded areas.

Clearly Mr. Weasley was irresponsible. That does not mean he should not be held responsible! This case is about Ron Weasley, but it is also your opportunity as members of the magical community to send a message.

You must tell all magicians that this behavior is unacceptable, and that it will be punished. You can only do that by ordering Mr. Weasley to give all of his gold to Mr. Malfoy to make-up for the pain and humiliation he suffered.

With all that said, I ask that you find in favor of our client – Mr. Malfoy – so that Mr. Weasley receives the message loud and clear. Thank you.

JUDGE #2: Alright then, thank you. Is the defense ready to proceed?

DEFENSE LAWYER #2: We are your honor

JUDGE #2: Great, then you may proceed.

DEFENSE LAWYER #2: Thank you, Your Honor. Members of the Jury... let's start with the obvious problem with the other party's case. Their client – Mr. Malfoy – is a self-confessed bully. He may not have used the term, but we heard how he likes to torture magical creatures. Without being asked, he volunteered information that he likes to throw rocks at dragons

and terrify Moaning Myrtle the bathroom ghost! You don't even need to believe Mr. Potter's testimony about the stolen chocolate frogs to know Mr. Malfoy causes pain and suffering.

Mr. Malfoy told us that he has never been sued for damages related to pain and suffering, and yet he causes plenty of pain and suffering! It would seem then – if he is to play by the rules the same way as everyone else – that simply *causing* pain and suffering does not mean a person should be fined or sued because of that activity. Why then are we here today discussing Mr. Weasley's responsibility in this matter?

I'll tell you why. Mr Malfoy has a right to file a lawsuit, but in this case he is doing it only to be a bully and for a quick payday! Mr. Weasley and his family are of simple means – they are not rich. While my team and I are usually very expensive and bill hundred of gold coins an hour, we volunteered because this lawsuit was unjust and the Weasley's would not have otherwise been able to afford the defense they needed from Mr. Malfoy's villainous plan.

If Mr. Malfoy wasn't just being a bully and truly thought he had a case, it is not my client he would be suing – he would be suing Hogwarts! They have more money, and they clearly have the responsibility in this matter!

Today we heard that not only did Ron's friends know about his unpredictable wand, but that the entire school staff knew about the issue. We heard that serious physical injuries occur when the school hosts Quidditch events and the grand Tri-Wizard Tournament. In those school-hosted events, students are allowed to participate despite there being a known risk of death! What kind of school is this?!

No need to answer, because we all know – this is a school that knowingly endangers its students. They even failed to provide proper supervision the day of the incident, which is why my client's best friend was almost sent to Azkaban on criminal charges for something he didn't do! I mean, REALLY! Do I even need to begin to get into the fact that Mr. Weasley asked to take his test after he found a new wand? He was forced to learn or fail by his professor despite *attempting* to the responsibility!

My client did not have a choice – he was just trying to be a good student.

Mr. Malfoy did have a choice though, and chose to pick what he thought would be an easy target instead of going after the truly responsible party. Hogwarts also had a choice to be a school that creates a dangerous but productive environment, or to restrict the magical growth of its students by forcing them to play safe. When they did that, they took on the responsibilities that come with disputes like these.

Now you – the members of the jury – have a choice. You must choose to find in the favor of a bully who used the law to have a temper tantrum, or to do what is just...what is right...and to find in favor of my client, who was simply attempting to be the best student he could be with the only tools he had.

Your honor, with that we rest our case.

JUDGE #2:

Very well counselor.

Alright, members of the jury... You have heard the evidence and the closing arguments. Now it is your job to decide whether Mr. Weasley is civilly liable – meaning he needs to pay for his actions – with regards to Mr. Malfoys transformation into a pink Chihuahua.