

Orientation Materials

OK, so now you are excited about the conference in February, but how do you get your delegates prepared? The KYG Committee wants all the delegates prepared to fully participate in the mock trials at conference. It is important that delegates have an understanding of all the roles in the courtroom because their role in the county mock trial might not be the same as their role at the conference mock trial. In addition to walking delegates through a scripted mock trial and providing a case for delegates to role-play their own mock trial, this curriculum will provide information on the judicial system and how it interacts with the other two branches of government.

Meeting 1:

- Activity 1: Introductions
- Activity 2: Overview of KYG Conference; Handout Registration Materials
- Activity 3: Overview of County Orientation Meetings and Schedule
- Activity 4: Three Branches of Government
- Activity 5: Interpreting the Law: No Hats in the Classroom
- Activity 6: The Judicial System/Claim Your Jurisdiction Game

Meeting 2:

- Activity 7: Current Court Events
- Activity 8: Register Conference Delegates
- Activity 9: The Trial Process
- Activity 10: The Jury Process
- Activity 11: Scripted Mock Trial

Meeting 3:

- Activity 12: Reality TV?
- Activity 13: Speaker (optional)
- Activity 14: Rules of Evidence and Standard Objections
- Activity 15: Roles in a Trial
- Activity 16: Pick a Trial

Meeting 4:

- Activity 17: Trial Guidelines
- Activity 18: Prepare for Trial

Meeting 5:

- Activity 19: Mock Trial
- Activity 20: Debrief Mock Trial
- Activity 21: What is Happening at the Conference?
- Activity 22: Apply for Role at Conference
- Activity 23: Finalize Plans

Objectives of Orientation Meetings (When orientation is complete, delegates will have...)

- ❖ Awareness of what is to take place at the conference in February
- ❖ Knowledge of the judicial branch and how it interacts with the other branches
- ❖ Familiarity with the trial and jury processes
- ❖ Skills to perform various roles in the courtroom
- ❖ Awareness of alternatives to the court process to resolve a conflict
- ❖ Experience of participating in a mock trial
- ❖ Knowledge of their legislative district and who represents them in Olympia

To Insure a Smooth Beginning . . . Prepare Delegates for KYG Activities

Discuss guidelines for conduct during presentations by invited speakers, workshop sessions, courtroom visits, and meetings. Agree on expected dress, the importance of advance preparation for meetings, and considerate behavior during the activities. Consider setting ground rules and encourage delegates, rather than adults, to ask and answer questions when appropriate.

Discovery learning. All the answers cannot be found within this packet and will require research on the part of delegates. Use the media to explore current cases and trials. Are there any local cases waiting to be heard by the State Supreme Court? What are the latest State Supreme Court decisions and how do they affect delegates? In your Superior Court, what laws are being challenged? Newspaper clippings are an excellent way to spark group discussion.

Build in think time for processing and reflecting on what was learned through the activity, and how it can be applied and shared. For significant learning, members need to question and think through what they have seen and heard, and apply it to what they already know. We have prepared a series of questions on several topics in the curriculum to challenge the delegates to thinking differently about issues they may have thought about many times. Use these questions to spark a discussion. Attempt to draw youth out of their culture-centralized understanding of issues. To improve the quality of this citizenship experience, ask questions to build bridges to new insights. Look for applications to real life and plan ways to share what was learned.

Maintain mutual respect. In identifying and debating issues, emphasize the need to talk to others, read about and listen to all opinions, and understand and clarify a personal point of view. Focus on the facts, write down those that support your view, but also look for areas of compromise. Stress that delegates must rely on facts and avoid adversarial and emotional arguments, which are unproductive and prevent people from working together on solutions to problems. Trials are inherently adversarial; there are always two sides in conflict. An important objective of this curriculum is for delegates to communicate effectively. This objective includes listening carefully to what others say; clearly stating thoughts, feelings, and ideas; and settling disagreements in ways that are not hurtful.

Guest Speakers. We strongly suggest scheduling guest speakers that can bring a little more life to this subject. We defer to your experience and the needs of your delegation to plan who to invite and when. The Washington State Bar Association (www.wsba.org) has organizations within each county and there may be attorneys who would be glad to speak on a variety of subjects. In addition, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) website (www.courts.wa.gov/education) has a program named, *Judges in the Classroom*. Simply click on **Request a Judge** and fill out the form. They have assured me that their service is not limited to teachers. AOC has voiced its support of KYG and is eager to provide judges to our county groups. Having an attorney at the preparation for the mock trial meeting and a judge at your mock trial meeting would prove invaluable.

The possibilities are endless and we hope you use this opportunity to let an “expert” share their knowledge with your delegation so they are that more prepared for the conference. Give your speaker an idea of what you want to learn and have each delegate prepare one or two questions for the speaker. After the speaker is gone, lead a discussion on what the members learned and how it applies to this conference.

Another useful tool may be to visit a courtroom to view a trial or jury selection as a group. Contact your local courts and explain your needs so they can assist you in finding an appropriate time to visit. It could be easier to plan a visit during a school vacation or teacher in-service day. This visit would probably be helpful after the scripted mock trial and before the mock trial. Or, you might decide it would be best to visit a courtroom after the mock trial. If you have problems arranging for delegates to see a court in action, have them observe a public hearing or watch the Supreme Court proceedings on TVW (Washington’s version of C-Span) or www.tvw.org as a substitute.

Role Playing. This curriculum requires that each youth place him or herself in the role of attorney, witness, juror, or reporter. Their role may have them perform in a way contrary to their personal beliefs. This internal conflict may happen often in the real world when a defense attorney believes their client to be guilty and they have to defend them. Remind delegates that they will gain more from the experience if they embrace their roles and remember that other delegates are also performing in ways that may be different from their personal beliefs.

Web Research

The Washington Courts website (www.courts.wa.gov) is sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts. This is where you can download *A Citizen's Guide to Washington Courts* and *A Juror's Guide* (look under Educational Resources) and where some of the lessons in this curriculum are found. If the links for the lesson plans included in the curriculum do not work, simply go to this website and click on Educational Resources and then search through the lesson plans. Some delegates may be interested in getting weekly notifications of court decisions or press releases. You can sign up for this service at this site. Take a look--it has a lot of good information! Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education also has a great site: <http://www.azflse.org/mocktrial/downloadcenter.cfm>.

Most counties also have websites with court information. To find your county's website, you can search the web using a search engine or try [www.co.\(your county\).wa.us](http://www.co.(your county).wa.us). For Thurston County, the address is www.co.thurston.wa.us. Finding your county's website might be helpful when you plan to visit a courtroom to watch a trial or jury selection.

Access Washington (www.access.wa.gov) is the state website and it is a good starting place if you are trying to find anything related to state government. This is where you can find legislative links (www.leg.wa.gov), court links, or links to the agencies in the executive branch, such as the State Patrol or Department of Corrections. Again, a lot of good information!

If your delegates have shown an interest in getting involved in state government, offer the following suggestions to them:

Youth Courts (www.youthcourt.net)

There are a variety of youth courts around the state that involve volunteers from 8 to 18 years of age in sentencing their peers for crimes, traffic infractions, or school rule violations.

Mock Trial Competitions (www.nationalmocktrial.org) or (www.streetlaw.org) Law Camps (www.classroomlaw.org)

Community Accountability Boards

Members actively insure their voice is heard by serving on a board of volunteers to interview youth, age 8-17, who have committed certain offenses. Help decide how to best repair the harm done while both protecting the community and building the youth's own skills. Again, there are a variety of boards around the state. Community Youth Services (www.communityyouthservices.org) run the boards in Thurston County. King and Pierce Counties have CABs(www.doc.wa.gov/PPP/cpp3.htm#cab) through the Dept. of Corrections. Try contacting these agencies to find information about CABs in your area.

Legislative Page Program (www.leg.wa.gov)

Page duties are varied. They range from ceremonial tasks such as presenting the flags to operational chores like distributing amendments during legislative sessions. Each job is vital to the efficient operation of the Legislature. As the weeklong experience draws to a close and pages return to their schools and communities, it is hoped that pages will share their experiences and observations with others in an effort to contribute to a more universal understanding of the legislative process.

Once on the Legislative website, click on "Participating in the Process" and then scroll down to "Working in the Legislature." There are separate application processes for the House of Representatives and Senate.