



COURSE OVERVIEW MOCK TRIAL



Fostering a Culture of Excellence

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Branca
SCHOOL: SAGINAW HIGH SCHOOL ROOM S204
PHONE: 817-306-0914
EMAIL: pbranca@ems-isd.net
ADDRESS: 800 N. Blue Mound Road, Saginaw, TX 76131
CONFERENCE: 3rd Period
TUTORING: Lunch, Before school Tuesdays-Thursdays

Course Components: Mock Trial is the study of courtroom procedures in Texas. We will be learning how to deliver an opening and closing statement, question witnesses using both direct and cross examination techniques, the rules of courtroom procedure, rules of evidence and objections. We will also perform multiple mock trials.

Required Supplies: spiral or composition notebook, #2 pencils, dry erase markers.

General Classroom Policy:

1. Standard Saginaw High School classroom rules of courtesy and behavior will be required of all students.
2. Each student enrolled in this class must show respect for themselves, others students, and the teacher.
3. I expect all of my students to be in class and working for the entire period. Please take care of all your personal business before or after class.

General Class Rules:

1. Login to Canvas when you enter the class. The class will begin with a daily warm-up. You should stop talking and begin the quiz when the class begins. Class ends when the bell rings and **I dismiss you.**
2. You are to remain in your assigned seat or lab station for the entire period unless told otherwise. You will need to ask my permission in order to move to an unassigned section of the room.
3. I will give you time in class in which you can work on class/homework. I expect you to use that time for class/homework.

Course Goals: Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Design and implement a theme for a trial.
2. Write direct and cross examination questions for witnesses.
3. Correctly object and response to objections during trial.
4. Offer and lay foundation for admission of evidence.

Evaluations:

Major Grades: Test, Six Weeks Exam, 60% (on level), 70% (AP)

Minor Grades: Homework, Quizzes 40% (on level), 30% (AP)

Late work: District Policy will be followed for late work.

Attendance: Good attendance is essential for success in class. Each class involves the learning of new and important trial concepts. District policy will be followed for make-up works related to absences.

Tutoring: I am available for assistance after school almost every day unless meetings have been scheduled which require my attendance. Please try to make an appointment when you need to attend tutoring. Appointments prevent you from wasting time when I am unavailable. **Please attend tutorials when you are experiencing problems in this course.**

Academic Integrity: (taken from the EMS ISD 2018-2019 Grade and Reporting Handbook) Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty, includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action

Grade Reports: School progress reports are mailed at the end of the third week of each grading period. Report cards are mailed at the end of each grading period (six weeks). Grades are also available through Skyward online. I will also be emailing grade reports to you on a regular behavior.

Course Schedule:

MOCK TRIAL

- 1st Six Weeks: Opening and closing statements
- 2nd Six Weeks: Witness questioning
- 3rd Six Weeks: Rules of evidence and procedure
- 4th Six Weeks: Opening and closing statements
- 5th Six Weeks: Witness questioning
- 6th Six Weeks: Rules of evidence and procedure

I look forward to working with you this year as you develop new skills in Mock Trial. We are going to have a great school year!!

Mr. Branca

Room Number: S204

Contact Number: 817-306-0914

E-mail: pbranca@ems-isd.net

To the parent or guardian:

Mock Trial is a class that covers a great deal about the trial procedure in Texas.

I am here to provide all the help I can for your student to succeed in this class. You can contact me via phone or e-mail as noted below. In addition to the progress reports (every three weeks) and report cards (every six weeks) sent out by the school, I will email grade reports home to you. I also hold tutorials after school almost every day, both before and after school. Students will also be able to attend tutorials during their lunch period as needed.

I am looking forward to successful year. Your student should have bought home a copy of the class syllabus for your review. Please take a moment to look these over and sign the attached form. Your student needs to return this next class period.

Peter Branca

I acknowledge that I have read and approve of or agree with all of the stipulations or information given in this document. I want this course to be profitable for the student, their parents or guardians, and the teacher.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Teacher Name

Teacher Signature

Date