The People vs. Columbus and Cortés

During this trial simulation, each student will be required to research with the intention of uncovering information that will be used for the purpose of holding a mock trial: The People vs. Columbus and Cortez. Each student will be given a specific responsibility or role that will guide them through the trial.

**Duration**: The trial day is set for 1/18/13 and will last only one period. You will have 3 class days to prepare with no extensions (it’s the last day of the semester for classes). All witnesses will be held to a strict time/question limit to assure that we can address each witness during the period with just enough time left for closing arguments and jury deliberation.

**Guiding Research**: As you investigate the case, be sure that you are organizing points that can be used by prosecution and defense. You will want to anticipate what the other side is going to ask as you read in order to produce an acceptable response for your side. It is strongly recommended that you devise a system of highlighting, color coding or marking as prosecution team and defense team. This will make it easy to find evidence quickly and keep your team organized in developing a strong case.

**Evidence:** Once you find text, images or content that you feel is admissible in court, get it approved by the judge before your court date. All evidence must be submitted before the trial ensues on 1/18/13. Your team’s evidence will be kept in a confidential binder or folder to assure secrecy.

**Debriefing Witnesses**: In order to make sure that you are preparing witnesses for the trial, legal teams will be given an opportunity to prepare witnesses. Be cautious here, witnesses can change their minds, become flustered or intimidated by the opposing team, or may forget important information. It will be your responsibility to develop a relationship and sway the witness to your side using the evidence. In addition, you will need to be sure you have reviewed the desired testimony with cooperative witnesses.

**Examining Witnesses**: While examining witnesses you will be given the opportunity to ask a maximum of 5 questions of each witness. If your examination is taking too long the judge may give you a time restriction. Once you have called a witness and examined them, the other legal team will cross-examine the witness; in this case, they may phrase questions that lead the witness. Likewise, their questions and time will be similarly limited. Judges may allow or stop questioning at any point as they see fit.

**Closing Arguments:** Each legal team will be allowed 3 minutes to close out with arguments. The prosecution will give their statement first, there are no questions, this is merely a statement that they will make stating their case. Because Columbus and Cortez have refused to take the stand, they will be allowed to represent themselves during this portion of the trial. There are no questions asked, this is merely a statement that they will make in their defense.

**Deliberation**: Once the closing arguments are finished the jury will be brought together and lead by 2 jury foremen to determine what the verdict is. A verdict of guilty or not guilty must be unanimously agreed upon by the entire jury. A majority is not sufficient. Each jury member must agree on the verdict, otherwise, the jury will declare a hung jury and the trial will end with neither a guilty or not guilty verdict (which really is a not guilty in most cases).

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| 1/9 | 1/11 |
| Debrief Trial SimulationBegin Prosecution and Defense Research | Assign RolesDevelop Case |
| 1/16 | 1/18 |
| Continue Developing CaseSubmit EvidenceDebrief WitnessesLast minute research at home | Trial Day: Do not be late you, will lose participation points. |