

TEACHER'S NOTE: IMPORTANT NOTE IN RESPECT OF THE MOCK TRIAL

The trial featured in our video is the final of a National Mock Trial Competition. It features transition year students from Scoil Mhuire Convent of Mercy, Ennistymon, Co. Clare; Castleknock College, Dublin 15 and Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. By watching their peers in action we hope to encourage students to participate in their own mock trial. We have used second level students in a mock trial situation rather than adults in a real trial situation. A real trial often lacks the dramatic impact generated by the competitive environment of the Mock Trial Competition.

For the purpose of the competition, certain liberties have been taken with the trial process. You will notice some inconsistencies between our trial and a 'real' trial. For example, it would not be usual for three judges to preside over a trial of the type featured in the video; the judge is very unlikely to congratulate an accused who is found 'not guilty'; the judge is not addressed as 'My Lord' and there are no prizes for the 'winners' or 'losers' at the end of a trial.

You can increase class participation by assigning further roles, such as:

- Newspaper reporter (written article)
- Television reporter (piece to camera)
- Court photographer
- Sketch artist.