

MOCK TRIAL
SCRIPT TEMPLATE

[Guide: The first thing that happens in a trial is called **opening statements**. This is when each attorney can tell the jury what evidence they will present during the trial. The deputy DA goes first and the Public Defender goes next.]

Prosecution Attorney: [Stand up and talk to the jury.] *Your Honor and ladies and gentlemen of the jury: the defendant has been charged with the crime of(explain the case)The evidence I present will prove to you that the defendant is guilty as charged.*

Defense Attorney: [Stand up and talk to the jury.] *Your Honor and ladies and gentlemen of the jury: under the law my client is presumed innocent until proven guilty. During this trial, you will hear no real evidence against my client. You will come to know the truth: that (defendant's first name)..... (state your side of the case)..... Therefore my client is not guilty.*

[Guide: After the opening statements, the Prosecution Attorney calls the Prosecutor to the stand to testify. Witnesses are also called to testify about what they know about the case. The attorneys will also show physical things—like a weapon or a photograph—to the jury. These things are called exhibits. The jury may only consider an exhibit if the judge admits the exhibit into evidence when they meet to decide if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.]

Judge: The prosecution may call its first witness.

Prosecution Attorney: Your honor, I call (prosecutor) to the stand.
[Bailiff takes the witness to the witness stand.]

Clerk: Please stand. Raise your right hand. Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Prosecutor: I do.

Clerk: Please state your first and last name.

Prosecutor: (state name)

Clerk: Let the court records show that this is (prosecutor). You may be seated.

[Guide: The attorney and the prosecutor will now go through their question/answer phase. Then...]

Prosecution Attorney: There are no more questions your honor.

Judge: Will the Prosecutor please step down. Do you have any other witnesses?

Prosecution Attorney: Yes, your Honor. Will (witness name) please take the stand.

[The Bailiff escorts the witness to the stand.]

Clerk: Please stand. Raise your right hand. Do you promise that the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Witness: I do.

Clerk: Please state your first and last name.

Witness: (state name)

Clerk: Let the court records show that this is (prosecutor). You may be seated.

[witness takes a seat]

[**Guide:** The **Prosecution Attorney** will again ask questions. When pointing out the defendant or presenting evidence...]

Prosecution Attorney : Do you see the (guilty person) here in court?

Witness: Yes, he/she is there. [point]

Prosecution Attorney : Let the record show that the witness has identified the defendant sitting at the defense table [Point to defendant.]

Prosecution Attorney : What evidence might you have to help [prosector] with his/her case?

Witness: I have/found/seen...

Prosecution Attorney : [Present the evidence to the witness] Is this what you're talking about?

Witness: [Look at evidence.] Yes.

Prosecution Attorney: Your Honor, I would like to have (evidence) as people's exhibit number one and ask that they be admitted into evidence. [Give (evidence) to clerk who will pretend to put a sticker on them and hand them back.]

Judge: Does the defense have any objection?

Defense Attorney: No, Your Honor.

Judge: The (evidence) will be admitted as People's exhibit number one.

[**Guide:** Prosecution Attorney will now tell the court why that piece of evidence is important to the case. Then, when the Prosecuting Attorney is done....]

Prosecuting Attorney: I have no further questions.

Judge: Does the defense wish to ask any questions?

Defense Attorney: [Stand up.] Yes, Your Honor.

[He/she will now ask the Prosecutor or Witness questions. This is called a cross-examination. When they are done...]

Defense Attorney: Thank you. I have no further questions.

Judge: The witness is excused. [Wait for the witness to leave the stand.] Does the prosecution have any other witnesses?

Prosecuting Attorney: No, Your Honor, the Prosecution rests our case.

Judge: Is the defense ready with its case?

Defense Attorney: Yes, Your Honor. I call the defendant. [Bailiff takes the defendant to the witness stand.]

[Guide: The Defence Attorney goes through the same process as the Prosecuting Attorney. When they have shared their side of the case...]

Judge: Are you ready with final arguments?

Prosecuting Attorney: Yes, Your Honor.

Defense Attorney: Yes, Your Honor.

[Guide: The final arguments are the attorneys' last chance to talk to the jury about the evidence and to try to convince them to see the case the way they do. Prosecution will go first/Defendant second.]

Prosecuting Attorney: [Stand up and face the jury.] Your Honor, and ladies and gentlemen of the jury: First,.... Second,....Third.... Therefore.... The defendant admitted.... That shows that the defendant Based on the evidence, you must find the defendant guilty....

Defense Attorney: [Stand up and face the jury.] Your Honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury: (name of defendant) wasThe prosecution has presented no real evidence to you to show that..... That means that there is a reasonable doubt and, therefore, you must find [him/her] not guilty.....

[Guide: [To the jury] The next step in the trial is when the jury decides whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. Based on the evidence presented, which case was most logical?]

Judge: Will the jury foreperson please stand? Has the jury reached a unanimous verdict?

Jury Leader: Yes

[Jury Leader hands the piece of paper with the verdict to the Clerk. The Clerk hands it to the judge. The judge reads it and hands it back to the Clerk]

Clerk: The jury finds the defendant [guilty/not guilty.]

[Guide: if the person is guilty, a Bailiff will escort the guilty party from the room/to jail. If the defendant is innocent, the defendant will be allowed to leave without]

Judge: Thank you, jury. Court is adjourned.