**Subject / Year Group: High School Unit Number: 1**

**Title: Texas State Mock Trial Competition Team** **Length of Unit:** **11 sessions**

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| **Summary of Unit** | |
| Thousands of high school students from across the state participate each year in this highly motivating, energetic, and challenging academic competition! The program provides a great way for students to gain an “insider’s view” of the judicial system, plus, they gain confidence speaking in front of others and have a lot of fun at the same time.  The competition is open to all high school students – public, private and home school. Students that are interested in pursuing a career in the law should absolutely attend and those that are interested in developing their public speaking, logical reasoning and presentation skills also benefit greatly.  Each year, over 160 schools across the state and approximately 2000+ students participate in this exciting advocacy competition. In addition, there are hundreds of attorneys and judges involved in the judging of each trial of the competition.  The mock trials are open to the public and we encourage any teacher, student, parent, etc. who are interested in the law to attend and observe these teams in action! Each team must learn both sides of the case study (Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense) and students must play the roles of both attorneys and witnesses in a ‘mock’ trial. Members work together to learn the facts of the case and create strategies for trial and then compete in local area meets. Students participating in this enrichment and CCA activity should be available for the competition area meet in late January. 2 winners from each heat will advance to the state final in Dallas in early March and maybe even to nationals! | |
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| **How will students be assessed?** | |
| Passing requirements | **Competition Rubrics will be applied during practices and an average of a ‘4’ must be achieved throughout the 11 week program to achieve a pass.** |
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| **Course Overview** | |
| Session Breakdown | Texas State Mock Trial Competition Team  Session 1: Introduction to the program and the nature of the US legal system  Session 2: Preparations using past case  Session 3: Preparations using past case  Session 4: Mini-mock trial  Session 5: 2019 case launch – reading the case, the law related to the case  Session 6: 2019 case preparation – case reading, developing a theory, developing questions  Session 7: 2019 case preparation – developing questions, team assigning, introducing objections  Session 8: 2019 case preparation – developing questions, practicing objections  Session 9: 2019 case preparation – writing opening and closing statements  Session 10: 2019 case preparation – bringing it all together  Session 11: Full run-through rehearsal of the 2019 case. |
| Key Contact(s) | Mr Dan Bish Team Teacher Coach  Mrs Katrina Rogers Team Legal Coach |