Mock Trial for “Jury of Her Peers”

The defendant Minnie Wright has been charged with the murder of her husband. We know (based on the text) that she did it. The trial is to decide whether she will be found “Guilty” or “Not Guilty” by reason of insanity. Evidence during the trial will be considered in the context of the Room 240 Rule.

Room 240 Rule
A person is not responsible for criminal conduct if, at the time of the offense, the criminal conduct is the result of mental disease or defect, and she lacks substantial capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of her conduct and/or to conform her conduct to the law.

Here’s the plan to prepare for the trial of Minnie Wright.

Judges, Jurors, and Bailiff should meet and present information to the class concerning acceptable objections for the trial as well as some procedural review and information. It is your responsibility to make sure the lawyers for both sides understand what they can and cannot do as well as the order of arguments, etc. The presentations and evidence of preparation as well as the quality of deliberations and critical thinking will determine jurors grades for the project. Note taking during testimony is strongly suggested.

Defense and Prosecution Teams should meet with their Witnesses (they’ll fall neatly into one or the other camp) and psychologists to develop and extensive list of questions and argumentation, including the opening statements. Keep the room 240 Rule in mind as you prepare for Thursday’s trial. Witnesses may rehearse “takes” on various characters for the big moments on the stand. Creative costumes are welcomed. Participants will be graded for preparation for and quality performances and evidence of critical thinking.

Consider researching possible causes of temporary insanity including mental disorder, diminished responsibility, post traumatic stress disorder, automatism, duress and provocation to make or refute your case. Developing lines of questioning based on both the text and extrapolation will be important. Witnesses should think about how to answer questions posed by the attorneys.

Attorneys will also need to create opening and closing statements. They should be familiar with objections as well as questions for establishing the credibility of the witness.

Remember to bring costumes and your best trial demeanor later this week. Assume that the evidence has been discovered. Logical extrapolation is acceptable. We’ll assume Peters found the bird on a return visit, and Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale will need to be truthful about that.

The psychiatric testimony will focus mainly on the behavior of Mrs. Peters. [sic]

Rubric: Organized, appropriate and convincing delivery

<table>
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<tr>
<th>20-18 well done or outstanding</th>
<th>17-16 Good</th>
<th>15-14 Adequate</th>
<th>13-12 Barely adequate</th>
<th>11-0 Missing or inadequate</th>
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You also have a 10 point grade for how well you prepare and focus during class work time.
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NEUTRAL

Judges: 2 students: Michelle McPhillips, Stephen Boyd
Responsibility: monitor functions of all parties – make sure jury has their research done and ready to present to class, be sure both sides are properly interviewing and coaching witnesses, be sure to understand the trial process since you are running it!

Jury:
Foreman: Naeema Akbar & Baliff: David Kennedy
Responsibilities: Overseer group formation for required research. Make sure all materials are correct and be in charge of distributing the info to the class. This will include a lesson on the second work day. Also, know what your jobs are as well.
Jurors: Kyle Dembinski, Larisa Grants, Yaji Kim, Justin Miller, Brandon Mills, Zach Slotta, Sam Ticknor, Ellie White
Responsibilities: Trial Format (who goes when, etc), Rules of Evidence, Types of Objections (Simplify for the class Please!) See Mock Trial Main Page on Maitespace for links to these materials. Then, prepare to present them on the second day we all know what to do on trial day.

PROSECUTION

Prosecuting Attorneys (2 Hendersons!): Charlie Prior, Alyssa Villacres
Responsibility: learn insanity defense – how to attack it! Interview witnesses, prepare case, anticipate what the opposition will do

Psychiatrist/Psychologist for the Prosecution (1): Kelly Bisschop
Responsibility: learn insanity defense – teach to lawyers

Mr. Hale: Matt Ryan
Responsibility: know your character – exactly how he/she would act, talk, what he/she would say

Mr. Peters: Alan Thornburg
Responsibility: know your character – exactly how he/she would act, talk, what he/she would say

Harry Hale: Akul Yajnik
Responsibility: know your character – exactly how he/she would act, talk, what he/she would say

DEFENSE

Defense Attorneys (2): Justin Soltesz, Jessica Hoover
Responsibility: learn insanity defense/post traumatic stress disorder, interview witnesses, prepare case, anticipate what the opposition will do

Psychiatrist/Psychologist for the Prosecution (1): Olivia Jackson
Responsibility: learn insanity defense/post traumatic stress disorder – teach to lawyers

Defendant Minnie Wright (Foster): Alexa Odenweller
Responsibility: know your character – exactly how he/she would act, talk, what he/she would say

Mrs. Peters: Hailee Hedges
Responsibility: know your character – exactly how he/she would act, talk, what he/she would say

Mrs. Hale: Jillian Yuricich
Responsibility: know your character – exactly how he/she would act, talk, what he/she would say
### Trial Process Order of Procedures

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