



Lesson Plan: Impartiality; An Honest Court

Activity Steps:

This lesson should be divided into 1 or 2 class periods per teacher discretion and student need. Group-work roles and expectations should have already been discussed, set and used prior to this activity.

Purpose	Teacher	Students
<p>Hook Engage students</p> <p>7 minutes</p>	<p>Taking a Stand on Key Questions</p> <p>Leads discussion, checks for understanding and encourages individual participation.</p>	<p>View evaluate the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should judges consider more than just what the law states when making a decision? 2. Should judges be elected into office? 3. Should public opinion influence a judge’s decision? <p>Students choose a corner of the classroom and take a stand; agree, disagree, strongly agree, and strongly disagree, then verbally support their decision.</p>
<p>Into</p> <p>Standards, definitions, and goals</p> <p>14 minutes</p>	<p>Teacher explains the daily objective</p> <p>Definitions of judicial and impartiality are given</p> <p>Students write a definition of judicial impartiality</p> <p>Explains differences between Federal and State judges, gives worksheet and explains student partner work</p>	<p>Student’s copy standards, definitions, and answer prompt into notebook.</p> <p>Student’s view movies clip and discuss teacher lead questions.</p> <p>Students respond to teacher’s questions.</p>



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Curricula for K-12 Civics Education

Through 6 minutes	<u>Miracle on 34th Street</u> movie clip and answer question in notebook.	Students view movie clip and respond to two questions.
15 minutes	Teacher explains court cases and worksheet assignment with partner	Students read and complete worksheet
13 minutes	Teacher leads student reporting to the class about their court case and its ramifications to an independent judiciary.	Students summarize their case to the class and share key questions
Beyond 5 Minutes	Teacher will give instructions for student essay concerning an independent judiciary	Students will review their case and notes and begin essay

Special Needs of students are considered in this lesson:

Students are put into flexible partnerships that will benefit learning for all types of learners and special needs. Hands-on learning with plenty of visuals, opportunities for movement, verbal, written, and nonverbal expression, and multiple learning modalities are available within the context of this lesson. The opportunity for student choice creates an embedded differentiation opportunity as well as student ownership of learning.

Extension Ideas:

- Students could comment on current issues such as the Prop 8 decision of the court.
- Students may debate the pros and cons of an independent judiciary.
- Students find news articles, of similar issues.
- Students discuss what part fairness plays in the rule of law.
- Students discuss the advantages and disadvantages of no tolerance laws.