

## **Trial by Jury**

### **Lesson Plans**

#### ABA Division for Public Education

- “A Jury of Her Peers” Story Analysis. Students will examine their understanding of the functions and makeup of juries in contemporary society by analyzing jury issues raised in Susan Glaspell's short story "A Jury of Her Peers."  
[http://www.americanbar.org/content/aba/groups/public\\_education/resources/lesson-plans/high-school/law-and-literature/jury-of-her-peers-story-analysis.html](http://www.americanbar.org/content/aba/groups/public_education/resources/lesson-plans/high-school/law-and-literature/jury-of-her-peers-story-analysis.html)

Length: 3 lessons

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class discussion, handout based on the reading, and written assignment

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.3](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.3](#)

- Due Process Freedoms: Voir Dire Simulation. In this lesson, students will role play real lawyers as they carry out a voir dire simulation for jury selection. They will draft lists of favorable characteristics of jurors beforehand to aid in their questioning. Then, students will be presented with a list of thirty potential jurors and will impanel either a six-person or a twelve-person jury based on the size of the class. By reflecting on the impaneled jury towards the end of the session, students will think critically about important juror characteristics that may have influenced the voir dire process.  
[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/resources/lesson-plans/middle-school/due-process/voir-dire-simulation.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/resources/lesson-plans/middle-school/due-process/voir-dire-simulation.html)

Length: 1 lesson

Grades: 9-10

Assessment: Informal participation in voir dire

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#)

#### ABOTA's Justice by the People

- The Jury System. Students will learn about the jury system. Students identify pros and cons of jury trials and judge-only trials, plus develop and respond to questions that might help to ensure the selection of a fair and unbiased jury.  
<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/lessonplan.jsp?id=1123>

Length: 1 lesson

Grade 9-10

Assessment: Class discussion, group work, creating a diagram, and short research assignment.

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.8](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.D](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.C](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4](#),

### The Annenberg Classroom

- Jury Selection on Trial. Students learn about the process used for jury selection and how the role and responsibilities of government in civil and criminal jury trials are viewed by the Supreme Court. They also reflect on the democratic values, principles, and dispositions of character working behind the scenes.  
<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/files/documents/lessonplans/juryselectionontrial.pdf>

Length: 4 lessons

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Short research activity, responses to video discussion guide, develop case profile, and take-home review

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.8](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.C](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.D](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1.C](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1.D](#)

### Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

- The American Jury: A Case Study, The Sheppard Miller Trial. Students read selected background material on the Sheppard murder case and discuss the assigned readings. Activities include analyzing a political cartoon and a primary source document, writing and delivering a closing statement, and developing a timeline of the various court decisions made in the Sheppard case. Students will explore Internet sites for additional information about the recent lawsuit filed against the State of Ohio by Sam Sheppard, Jr. and will use this information, in combination with the background material, to write an editorial discussing whether the American jury system "works".  
[http://www.crfc.org/sites/www.crfc.org/files/program\\_documents/Jury\\_SheppardMurderTrialCaseStudy.pdf](http://www.crfc.org/sites/www.crfc.org/files/program_documents/Jury_SheppardMurderTrialCaseStudy.pdf)

Length: 4 lessons

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class discussion, analyzing a political cartoon, editorial writing assignment, construct timeline of court decisions in Sheppard case using Microsoft word.

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.7](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.7](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.6](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7](#)

- The American Jury: A Voir Dire Simulation. Students are introduced to the voir dire process by participating in small group case studies. Each student will complete a juror questionnaire before working in a group to develop questions for potential jurors based on their case study. Groups will then simulate the voir dire process.  
[http://www.crfc.org/sites/www.crfc.org/files/program\\_documents/Jury\\_VoirDire.pdf](http://www.crfc.org/sites/www.crfc.org/files/program_documents/Jury_VoirDire.pdf)

Length: 1 lesson

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class discussion and participation in voir dire simulation

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4](#)

- The American Jury: What's the Big Idea? These lessons introduces students to the ethical foundations of the western worldview and engages them in a series of trial simulations based on the norms of specific societies; including Mesopotamia, Ancient Greece, and the modern United States.  
[http://www.crfc.org/sites/www.crfc.org/files/program\\_documents/Jury\\_WhatstheBigIdea.pdf](http://www.crfc.org/sites/www.crfc.org/files/program_documents/Jury_WhatstheBigIdea.pdf)

Length: 4 lessons

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class discussion, in-class essay, group simulations

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2](#)

### Edsitement

- Twelve Angry Men: Trial by Jury as a Right and as a Political Institution. Uses the film or the play, *Twelve Angry Men*, to deepen understanding of the constitutional guarantee of the right to trial by jury and the role of the jury system in American democracy?  
<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/twelve-angry-men-trial-jury-right-and-political-institution>

Length: 1 lesson

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class discussion, short research project and poster display on impartial jurors

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.3](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.8](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1](#)

### Federal Judicial Center

- Teaching Judicial History. This section of the FJC's website features extensive curriculum materials for over ten teaching units on historic federal court cases with new cases added each summer. There are three major components to each of the case materials: historical backgrounds and readings, at least 3 lesson activities, and resources for judges and educational outreach. A sample lesson description from The Chicago Seven Conspiracy Trial is featured below.
  - o Selecting the Jury –A Simulation Activity. Through simulation of the jury selection process for the Chicago Seven conspiracy trial, students will gain insights into the prosecution, and the challenges in impaneling a "fair and impartial" jury in a highly publicized trial. Students will compare their simulated process with the actual impaneling of the Chicago conspiracy trial jury and consider the effect on the outcome of the trial.  
<http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/teaching.html>

Length: 5 lessons

Grades: 11-12

Assessment: Group Written Scripts, Individual Writing Assignment

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.8](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.6](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-](#)

[12.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.3](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9](#)

### The Judicial Learning Center

- Understanding Trial by Jury. In part 1, students will learn about the American jury through discussion and investigation of the founding documents. In part 2, students will use materials prepared for actual jurors to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of trial by jury.

<http://judiciallearningcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Lesson-Plan-Trial-By-Jury.pdf>

Length: 2 lessons

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class discussion, group research project, interview a family member about jury duty, and in-class internet activity to complete handout

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.8](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.4](#)

### Street Law for Youth Courts

- A JURY OF YOUR PEERS: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF DIVERSITY IN JURIES?  
Students will learn about the skills, experiences, and values essential for ideal jurors, the concept of “a jury of your peers” and describe its application in youth courts and adult courts. Students will learn about the benefits of a diverse jury and terms such as: a grand jury, petit jury, summons, jury pool, jury venire, voir dire, removal for cause, peremptory challenge, the right to trial by jury given in the Constitution and why the jury system is important in a democracy and pluralistic society.

<http://www.streetlaw.org/document/185>

Length: 2 lessons

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class discussion, group work, and in class writing assignment

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.1](#)

### Sunnylands from the Annenberg Foundation Trust

- Justice and Juries. Students trace the historical underpinnings of the jury system in America and learn about foundational principles of justice. They become familiar with juror selection processes, how a courtroom looks, the way a trial works, and expectations for jurors.

<http://sunnylandsclassroom.org/Downloads/FAQ%20Juries%20Lesson%20FINAL.pdf>

Length: 4 lessons

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class discussion, short research activity to develop a timeline on the evolution of the jury system, and expository writing assignment

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.7](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.7](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9](#)

- Jury Service: Our Duty and Privilege as Citizens. Students learn about the importance, history, and constitutional foundations of jury service. They become familiar with federal and state juror qualifications and selection processes, then review sample juror questionnaires and jury summonses. Students also participate in an attitudinal survey about jury service.

<http://sunnylandsclassroom.org/Downloads/Jury%20Service%20Lesson%20FINAL.pdf>

Length: 3 lessons

Grades: 9-12

Assessment: Class prep-assignment sheet, class discussion, in-class group research project, and personal response writing assignment

Common Core: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.7](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.7](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9](#), [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1](#)

## Resources

### ABA Division for Public Education

- Jury Resource Page. Resource page that lists a variety of resources for teaching about juries, including guides, documentaries, and teaching activities.  
[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/resources/resources\\_for\\_judges\\_lawyers/juryresources.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/resources/resources_for_judges_lawyers/juryresources.html)
- Role of Juries. This is a resource page that is part of a “How Courts Work” section, which describes the role of juries in trials.  
[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/resources/law\\_related\\_education\\_network/how\\_courts\\_work/jury\\_role.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/resources/law_related_education_network/how_courts_work/jury_role.html)

### ABOTA Foundation’s Justice by the People

- Digital Historical Jury Timeline  
Students learn how the jury system has developed over time. Students explore the history of juries from the signing of the Magna Carta to today and trace the American jury system back to its roots  
<http://www.scholastic.com/americanjustice/slideshow/index.htm>

### The Annenberg Classroom

- Right to Trial by Jury Digital Timeline  
<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/timeline/right-to-trial-by-jury-in-federal-civil-cases>
- Full text and interpretation of 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/seventh-amendment>

### The Cato Institute

- Historical overview of the importance of trial by jury in American history  
<http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/trial-jury>

### Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

- The American Jury: A Jury Duty Experience. In this simulation, students are provided with the opening arguments, the cases of the prosecution and the defense, witness testimonies, and closing arguments of a burglary trial. Students are asked to serve as jurors and find evidence of guilt or reasonable doubt based on the information at hand. <http://www.crfc.org/teaching-materials/american-jury-jury-duty-experience>
- The American Jury: The Purpose of a Jury. This handout allows students to select and discuss their perceptions of the purposes of a non-partial jury. <http://www.crfc.org/teaching-materials/american-jury-purposes-jury>

### Court TV

- Court TV shows the *voir dire* process in action. Check Court TV's television listings for show times or contact their website at: [www.courtstv.com](http://www.courtstv.com). Taped segments of the show can be used to show students this process in class.

### Oyez IIT Chicago - Kent School of Law

- Tull v. United States. Audio of oral argument and opinion announcement [http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-1989/1986/1986\\_85\\_1259](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-1989/1986/1986_85_1259)

### Texas Young Lawyers Association

- We the Jury. This curriculum educates students about the importance of juries in our democratic society. It teaches what it means to be a juror, how jurors are selected, and the role that a juror plays in a trial. Students participate in a mock jury selection process, then view a mock trial for which they serve as jurors. <http://www.tyla.org/tasks/sites/tyla/assets/File/Jury.pdf>