

CICERO / LEGAL LATIN MOCK TRIAL PROJECT

Goals

1. To demonstrate our knowledge of the life of Marcus Tullius Cicero.
2. To demonstrate our knowledge of, and to accurately use, Latin terminology employed in the legal profession.
3. To strengthen our understanding of the legal process, both in ancient and modern times.

Background Information

After his consulship in 59 BC, Marcus Tullius Cicero went to Gallia to govern. Meanwhile, his political enemy Clodius passed a law intended to make Cicero's execution of Catiline's supporters (in the Catilinarian Conspiracy) illegal. In response, Cicero fled to Greece rather than face prosecution. In this trial, we imagine that Cicero had instead returned to Rome, and stands trial for the illegal execution of Catiline's supporters.

Requirements and Procedures

1. The class will be divided into two groups – the prosecution and the defense. Mr. Webb will serve as the judge. The prosecution will be made up of prosecutors and prosecution witnesses. The defense will be made up of defense attorneys, defense witnesses, and Cicero himself.
2. Using print materials as well as the internet (*look* at our Latin I-B website for some excellent Cicero links), research **the life of Cicero** as well as **the Catilinarian Conspiracy**. Prosecution: focus on aspects of Cicero's life, the Catilinarian Conspiracy, and Cicero's actions that would help you to convict him. Defense: focus on aspects of these issues that will help you to get him acquitted.
3. Develop a strategy – how will you approach the prosecution or defense of Cicero? Prosecution, perhaps you want to focus on the negative aspects of Cicero's actions. Defense, perhaps you want to focus on Cicero's long and noteworthy career. It is entirely up to you, and these are just examples. Who will you call as witnesses? What will you ask them to help prove your case?
4. Decide what the strategy of the opposing team will be, and be prepared to rebut their points. For example, the defense is likely to point out Cicero's distinguished career. Therefore, the prosecution should be ready to point out negative aspects of Cicero's career.
5. Each team must use at least **TEN LEGAL LATIN TERMS** when making their case. The team must also explain the meaning of each term after it is used. For example, "My client was *non compos mentis* when he committed the act! In other words, he did not have control of his mind!"

6. The structure of the trial will be thus –

- Prosecution, opening statement (1 minute)
- Defense, opening statement (1 minute)
- Prosecution, questioning of prosecution witnesses (5 minutes)
- Defense, cross-examination of prosecution witnesses (5 minutes)
- Defense, questioning of defense witnesses (5 minutes)
- Prosecution, cross-examination of defense witnesses (5 minutes)
- Defense, closing statement (1 minute)
- Prosecution, closing statement (1 minute)
- Praetor Webbus renders the verdict

You WILL be held to these time limitations! Praetor Webbus will bang his gavel when you are out of time!

Due Date

The trial will take place in class on _____.