

King Arthur Mock Trial Exercise

Using “The Tale of King Arthur and the Emperor Lucius,” you will argue the legal position assigned to your group. Circle your assigned legal stance:

- Arthur and his knights are guilty of breaking the code of chivalry in the king’s war against Emperor Lucius (either by waging the war or his conduct during)
- Arthur was completely within his rights to wage war and both he and his knights acted in a chivalric manner throughout the ensuing battles

Now, you must prepare for court:

1. **Opening arguments:** Write a slanted narrative paragraph addressing the facts of the case. Your paragraph should tell the story of military skirmishes in a way that supports your position. While there must be facts to support your slant, word choice will help dictate the tone of your paragraph.
2. **Presenting Evidence:** Answer the following questions in note form using pp. 82-105
 - a. Circumstance
 - 1) What is the actual evidence supporting your position?
 - 2) Is the evidence reliable: is it accurate, relevant, consequential, or merely circumstantial?
 - 3) Are there credible witnesses? Who are they?
 - 4) Is there conflicting evidence?
 - b. Charges
 - 1) What law (part of the code) has been violated? Is the law by which the person has been judged a fair law? Why or why not?
 - 2) Who was harmed by the injustice? Did the victim suffer against his/her will and what was the extent of the harm?
 - c. Motive
 - 1) Was the “crime” committed intentionally or unintentionally?
 - 2) What was the cause of the action – what happened leading up to the action that may have influenced the accused?
 - 3) If intentional, what may have been the motive: profit, revenge, punishment, pleasure?
 - 4) What kind of person is the accused?
 - 5) What kind of person is the victim?
 - 6) Were there mitigating circumstances?
3. **Questions for Opposing Council:** Prepare 3-5 questions to ask the opposing counsel in order to strengthen your own case.