

# Walking Through A Trial



## Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Correlation

SS.7.CG.2.5:

Describe the trial process and the role of juries in the administration of justice at the state and federal levels.

Students will examine the significance of juries in the American legal system.

Students will explain types of jury trials, how juries are selected and why jury trials are important.

## Lesson Overview

This lesson introduces the legal process and how a case progresses through the state or federal courts.

## Objectives

Students will be able to

- Define key terms related to a trial.
- Outline the trial process.
- Distinguish between different levels of courts.
- Optional: Participate in a mock trial or voir dire simulation

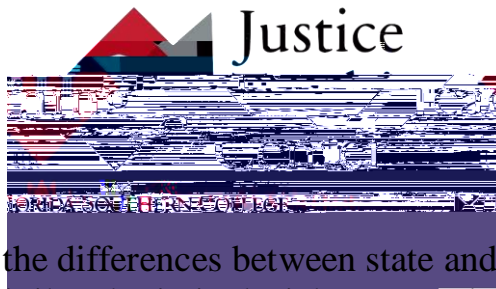
## Time Required

One to two 45-minute class periods.

## Materials Needed

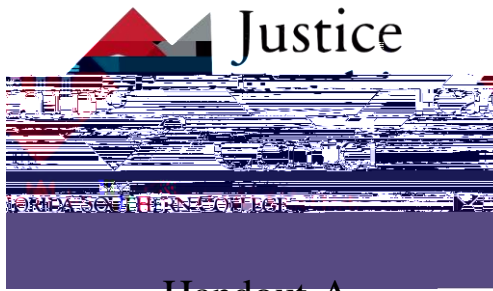
- **Handout A:** Vocabulary Match Up (cut out and put in two stacks as noted in procedures)
- **Handout B:** Walking Through





6. Review with students the differences between state and federal courts, trial and appellate courts, and civil and criminal trials. Let students know that not all trials have juries. The Just Serve activity will provide further illustrations of the jury system and processes.
7. If preparing for the middle school mock trial simulation and

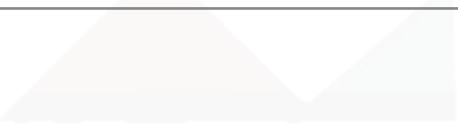


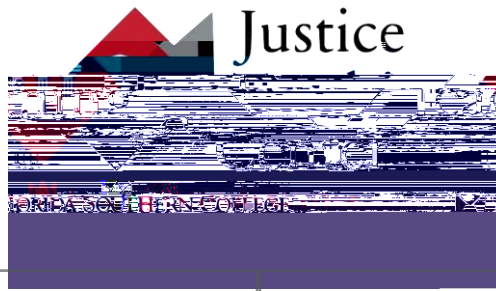


## Handout A

# Walking Through A Trial Vocabulary Match Up!

**Instructions:** If doing activity as a small group, provide each group with all the vocabulary words and definition cards in separate stacks and have students match the terms to the definitions. If doing as a full class, distribute vocabulary words to half of the class. Then distribute definitions to the other half of the class. Have students circulate around the room and find the matching definition to the vocabulary term. After students have found their corresponding matches, they should stand together (corresponding term and definition) in pairs. Debrief all terms with the full class so that all students know the definitions and can determine if they found their correct match..

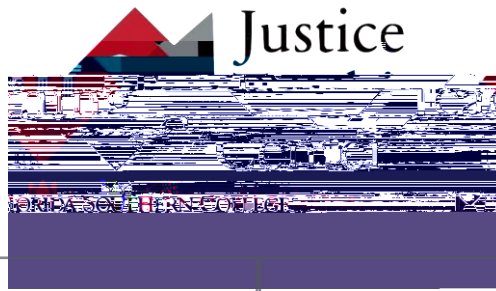
 <h1>Judge</h1>	<h1>I</h1>
<h1>Jury</h1>	



Justice

<p>Defense Attorney or Public Defender</p>	<p>I am a lawyer that represents a person accused of a crime. Sometimes I am appointed to represent persons who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer.</p>
<p>Objection</p>	<p>A formal challenge used by a lawyer to oppose a question or answer given in the courtroom.</p>
<p>Witness</p>	<p>I answer questions and provide factual testimony in a legal case if called by the lawyers during the trial.</p>





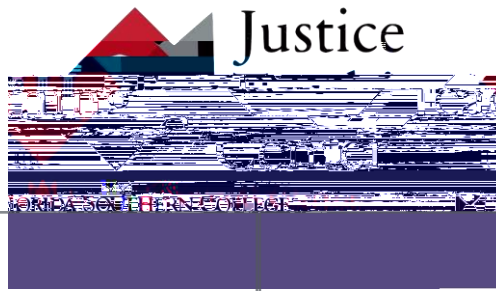
Prosecutor

I am a lawyer for the government who tries to prove the defendant is guilty of a crime.

Evidence

Documents, objects, or  
tf0351.27 294.67 222.68

Opening  
Statement



## Closing Argument

A concluding summary presented by the lawyers during a trial.

## Sustain

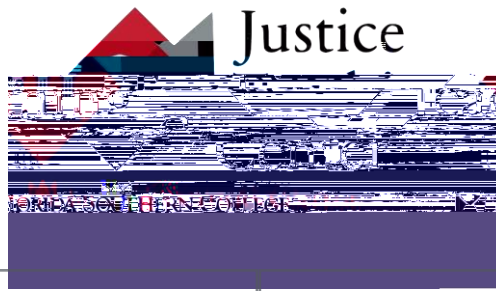
A judicial ruling which supports an objection made by a lawyer during a trial.

## Verdict

The decision made by the jury or judge at the end of the trial.







Justice

**Bailiff**

I am an officer of the court and provide security and protection to the judge and persons in the courtroom.

**Defendant**

I am the person sued by the plaintiff in a civil trial.

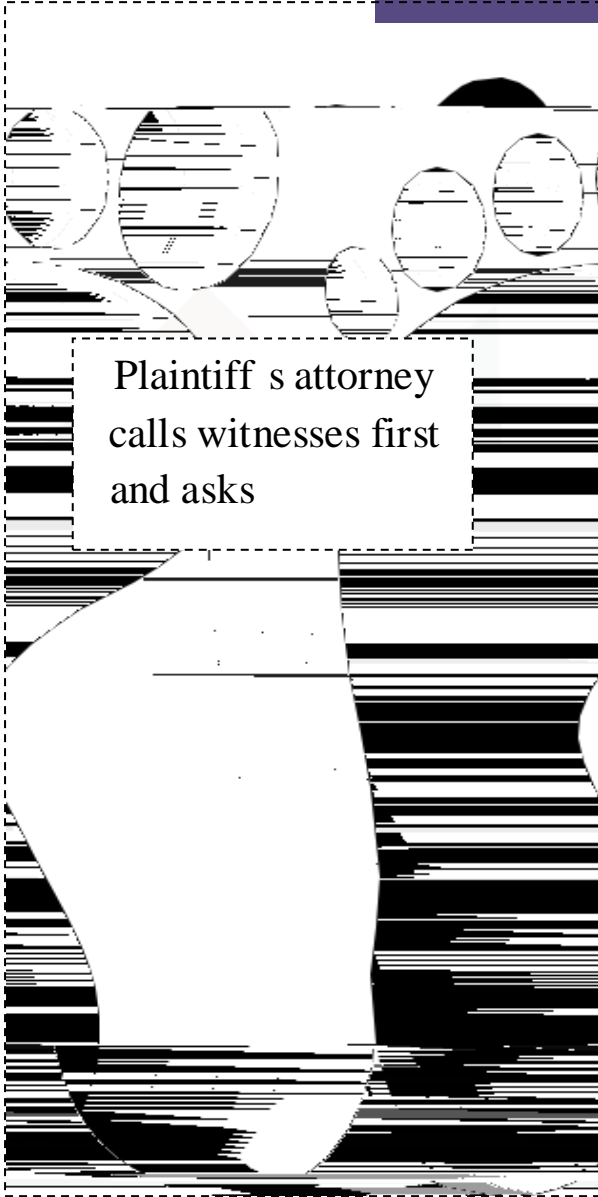
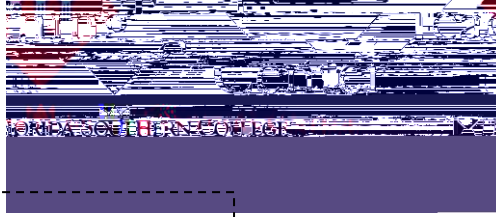
**Plaintiff**

A person or entity who initiates a legal action against the defendant in a civil trial.





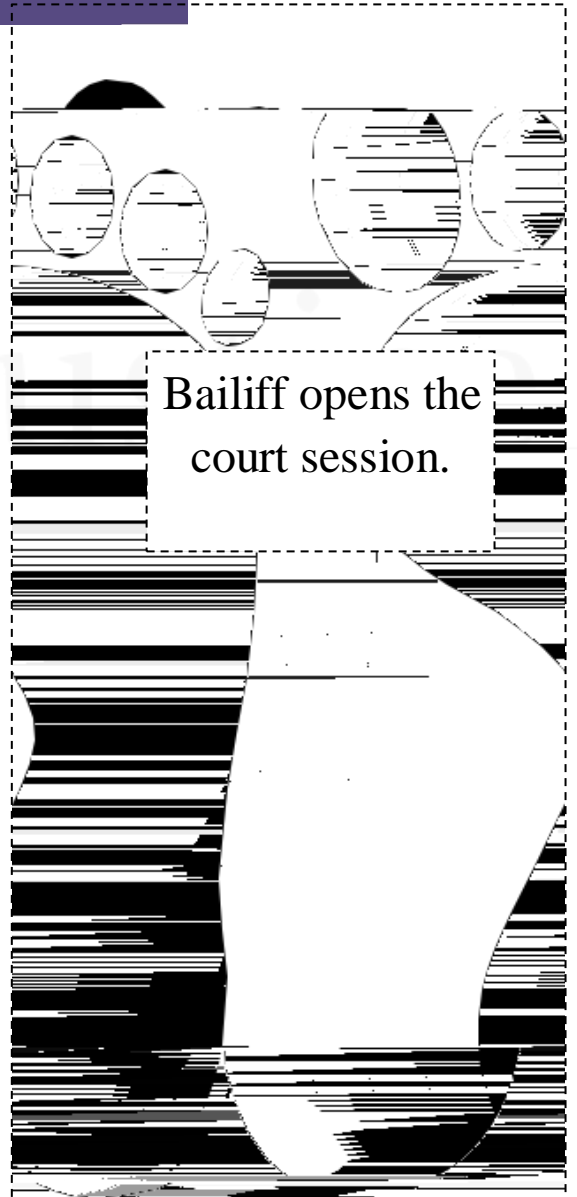
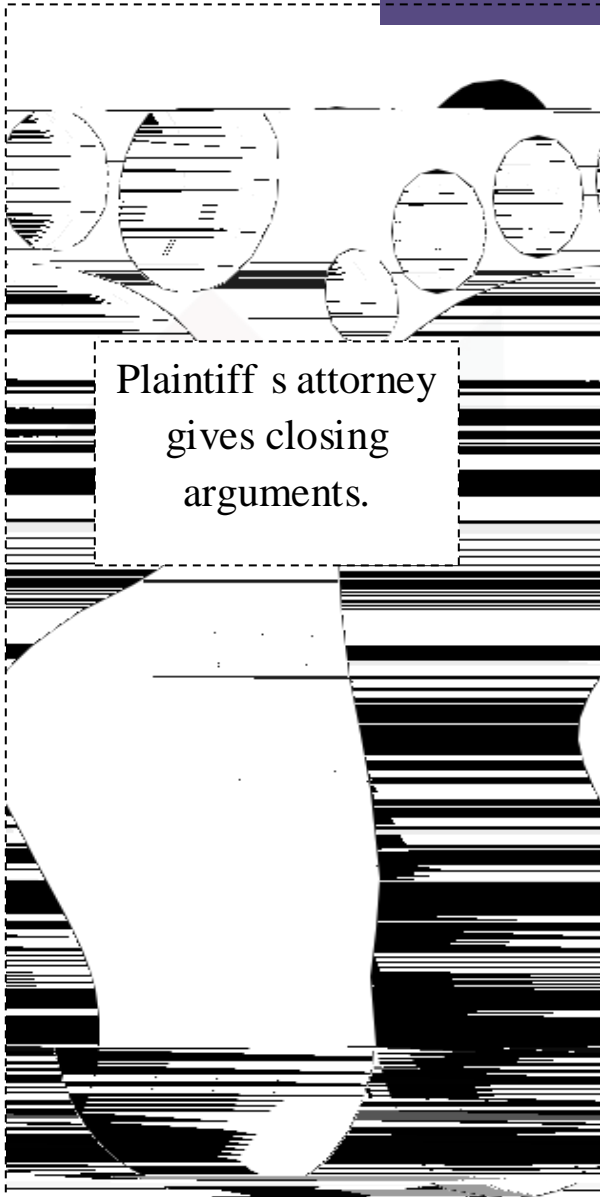
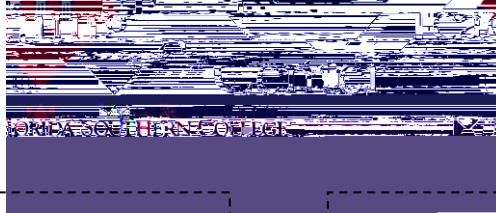
Justice



Plaintiff s attorney  
calls witnesses first  
and asks



# Justice

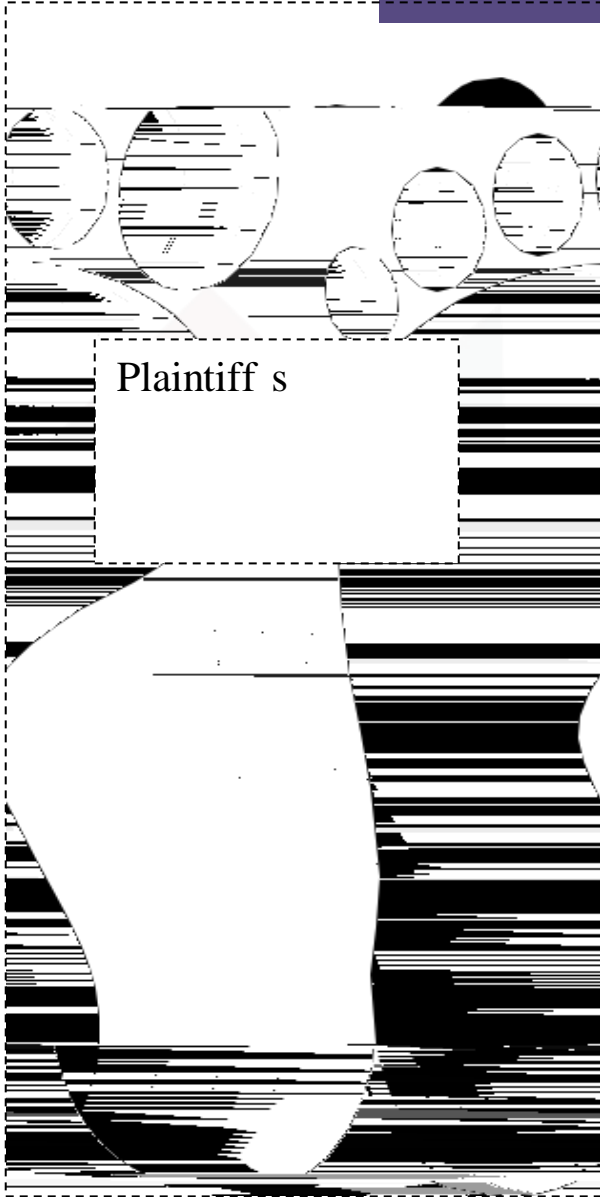
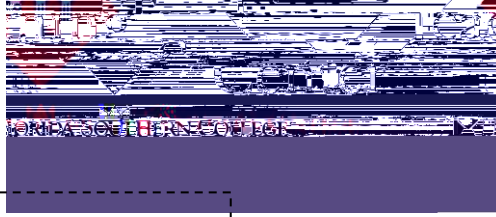








Justice

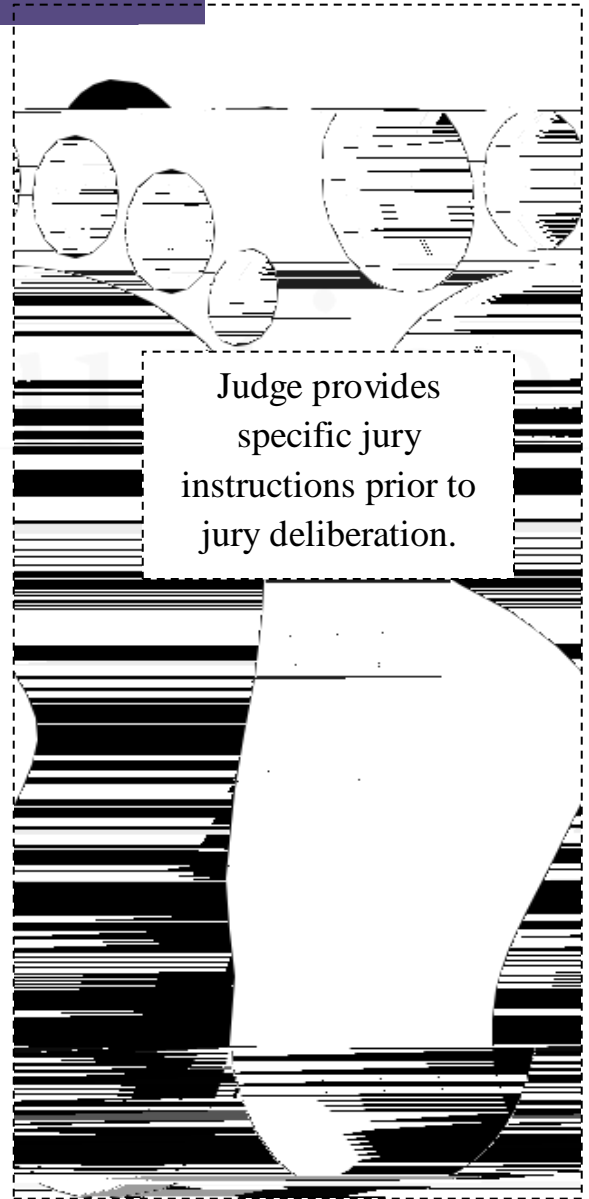
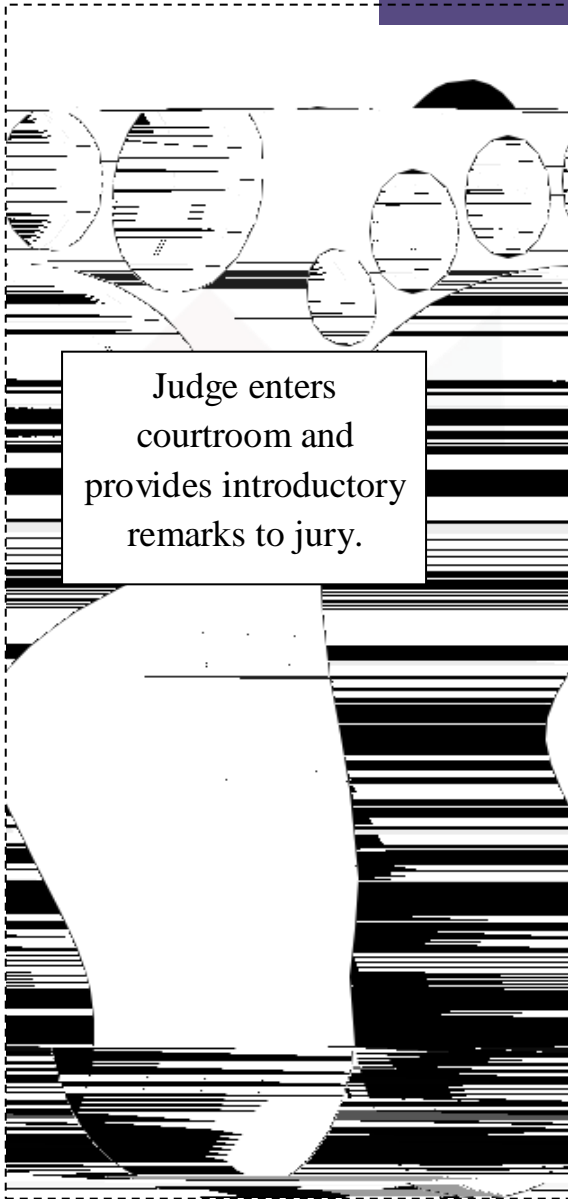
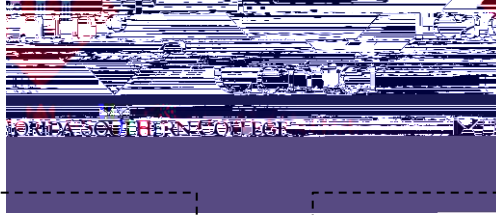


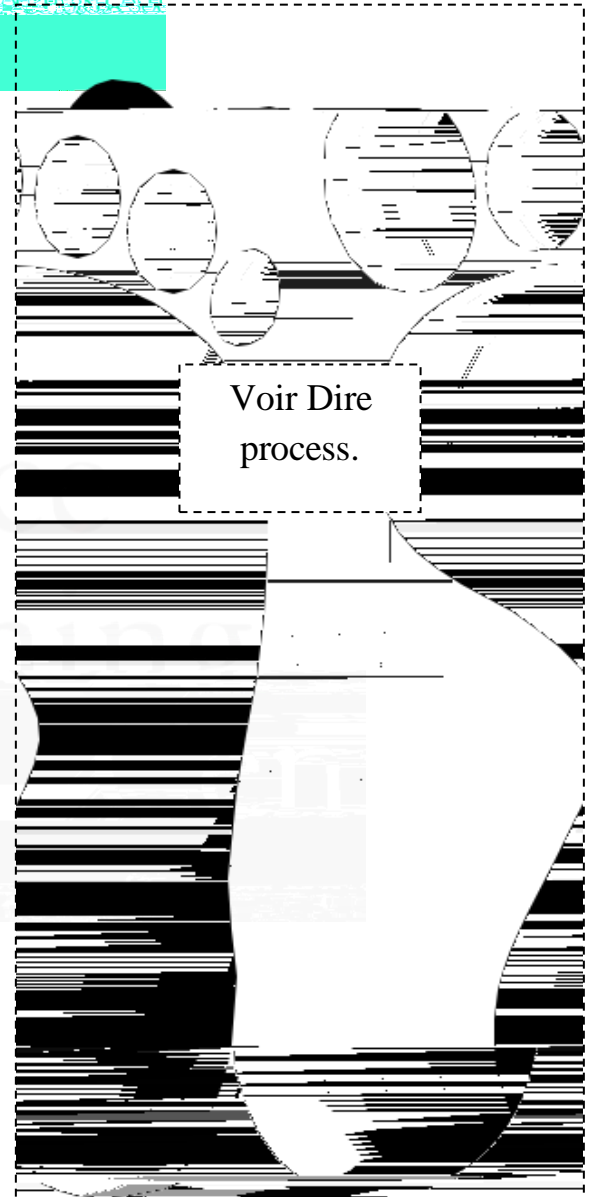
Justice





# Justice





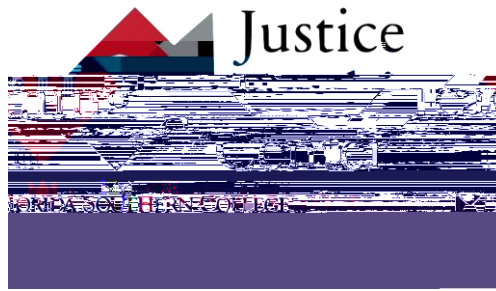


Justice

Teacher Handout      Answer Key for Handout B

## Walking Through A Civil Trial

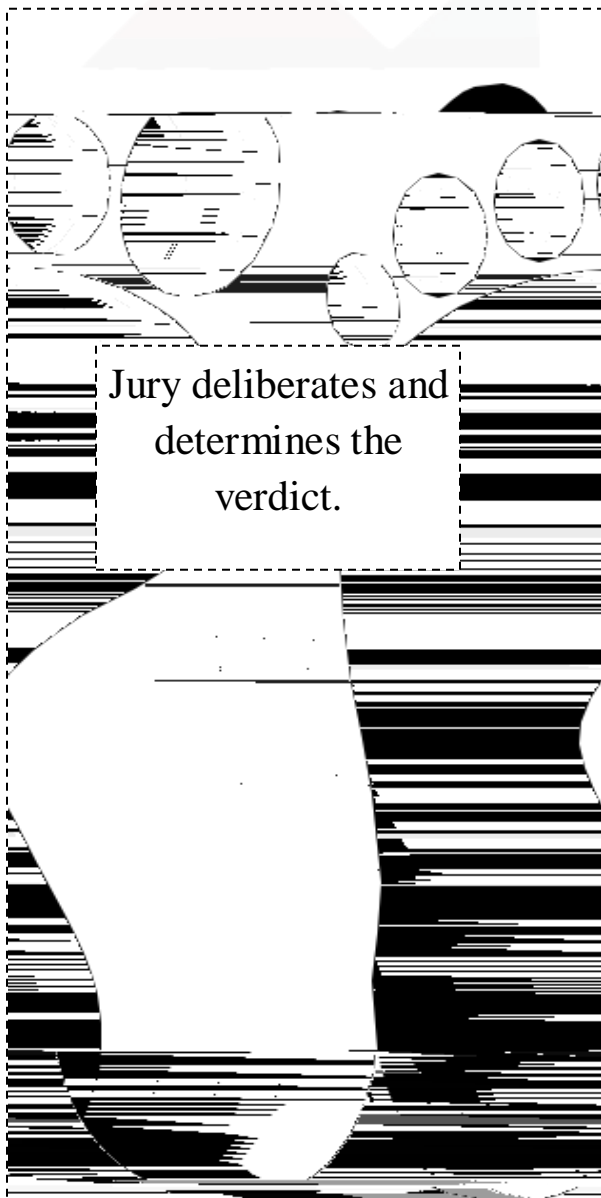
1. Prospective jurors are summoned.
2. Voir dire process.
3. Bailiff opens the court session for the trial.
4. Judge enters court and provides introductory remarks to the jury.
5. Plaintiff s attorney makes an opening statement.
6. Defendant s attorney makes an opening statement.
7. Plaintiff s attorney calls first witness and asks questions (direct examination)
8. Defendant s attorney



## Handout C

# Walking Through A Criminal Trial

**Instructions:** Cut out the images below individually and mix up the order. Place multiple sets in envelopes based on the number of small groups you will have. Divide the class into small groups of three to five students. Instruct students to place the feet in the correct order to demonstrate the sequence of events in a trial.

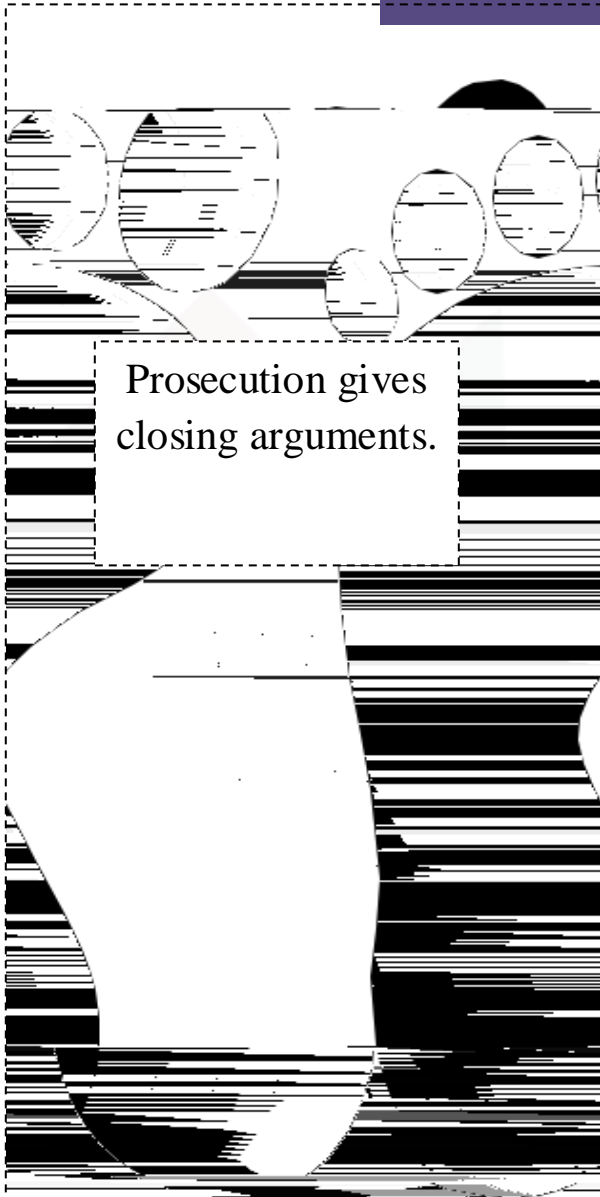
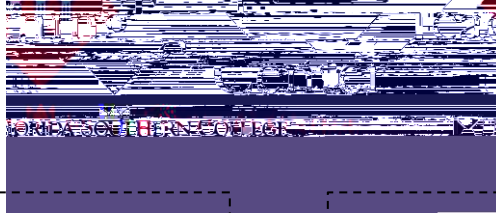




Justice

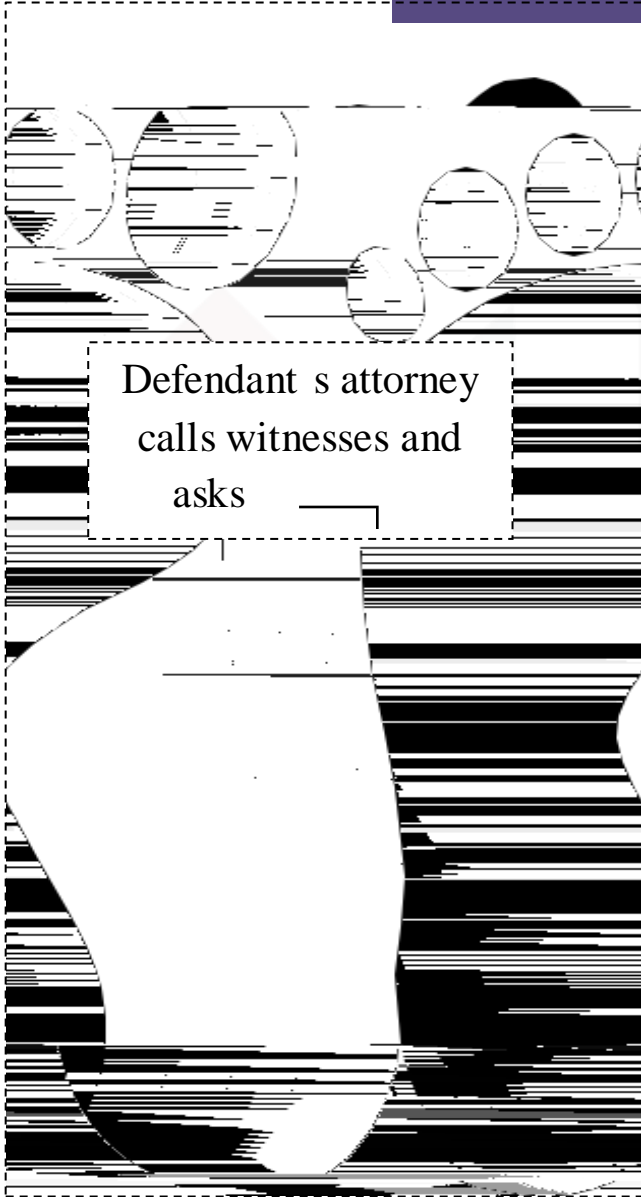


Justice





Justice



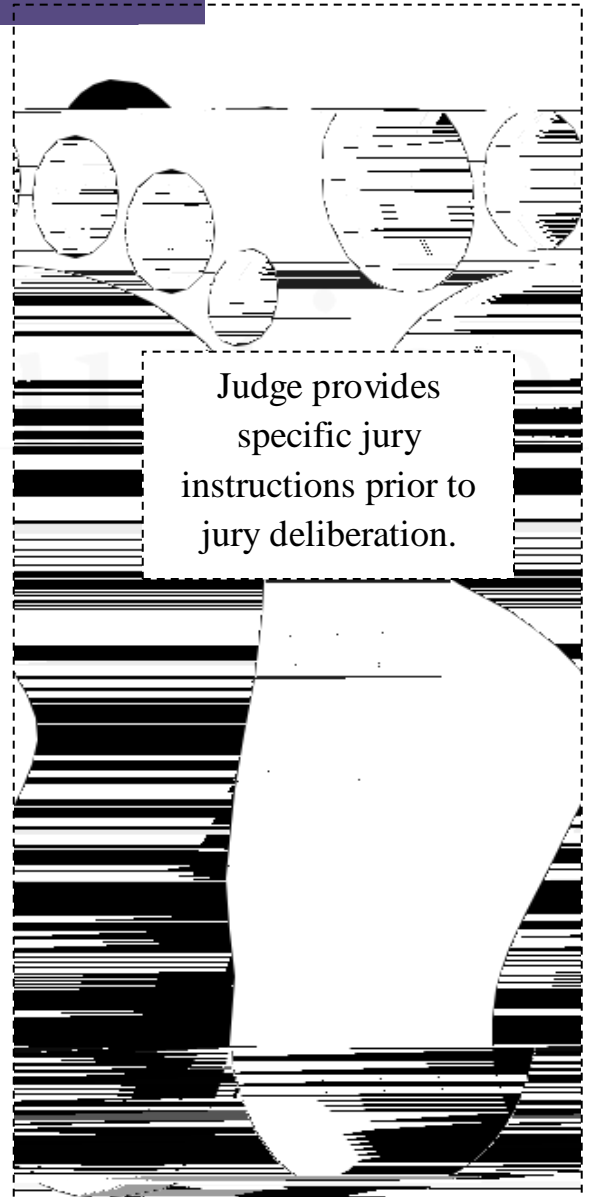
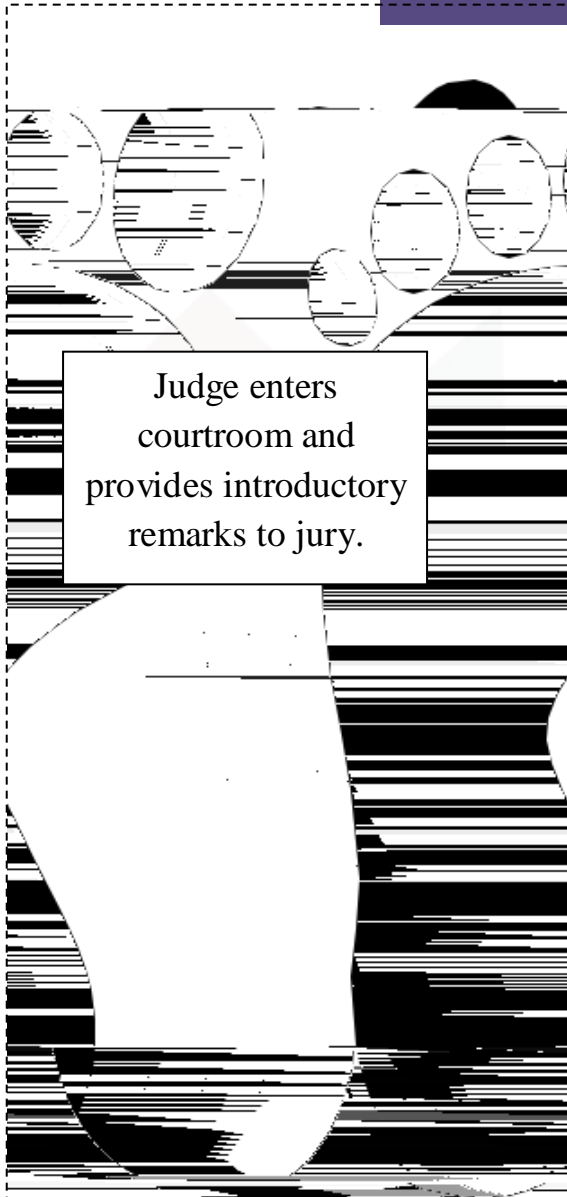
Justice







# Justice







Teacher Handout      Answer Key for Handout C  
**Walking Through A Criminal Trial**

1. Prospective jurors are summoned.
2. Voir dire process.
3. Bailiff opens the court session for the trial to begin.
4. Judge enters court and provides introductory remarks to the jury.
5. Prosecution makes an opening statement.
6. Defendant s attorney makes an opening statement.
7. Prosecution calls first witness and asks questions (direct examination)
8. Defendant s attorney cross examines witness for the prosecution  
    Note: Prosecution may have multiple witnesses. For each witness the prosecution will question, the defendant s attorney will immediately follow with the cross examination.
9. Defendant s attorney calls first witness and asks questions (direct examination).
10. Prosecution cross examines witness for the def