

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Group Skit Directions

You will work in groups of five to write and act out a skit (**3-5 minutes**) that responds to the quote:

It is better that ten guilty persons go free than that one innocent person be punished.

Your group will be assigned a position to take, either for or against this quote. Half of the class (three groups) will act out a skit in which the students portray a situation in which an individual is wrongly convicted of a crime. The other three groups will create their skit about the consequences of guilty people going free as a result of constitutional protections of the rights of the accused.

Step 1: Investigate

Review your responses on the Essential Questions Worksheet and notes about each of the three Supreme Court cases you read as a group and discussed in class. Focus on at least two of the four rights that discussed.

1. Right to a speedy and public trial
2. Right to a trial by jury
3. Right to adequate defense
4. Right against self-incrimination

At least two of these rights must be included in your skit to portray either the cost or the benefit to society in pursuing the principle expressed by the quote.

Step 2: Set the scene of your skit

As a group, decide where your skit will take place. Choose one or several locations.

Step 3: Develop the characters

Each student will have a role to play. Every group skit must include:

1. The judge
2. Jury (one person to represent a jury)
3. Plaintiff
4. Defendant
5. Defense attorney

You may decide as a group who will play which role. Make up a name and description for each character.

Step 4: Design and practice your skit

As a group, write the dialog and stage directions for your skit.

Practice your skit at least once before performing it for the class.