Modern World History: Historical Trials

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| PREPARATION |

Trial Teams

As you participate in a trial team (individual on trial, defense or prosecution) you will need to conduct individual and group research to maximize your chances of “winning” the trial. Lack of adequate preparation shows in a trial and the opposition will DESTROY your case. Your job is to create (as realistically as possible) a believable trial atmosphere which could include costumes and props. Points are awarded as follows:

Hints for Historical Trials

1. Costumes / Court Room Dress Code are always good.
2. Stay in character. It doesn’t matter if you are the defendant, a member of the defense team or a member of the prosecution team.
3. All statements and questions should accurately reflect the time period.
4. All members should be knowledgeable enough to answer/ discuss questions posed by the opposing team. All members should be knowledgeable enough to parry provocative questions by the opposing team. All members should be knowledgeable enough to ask follow-up questions when an initial response is vague, misleading or historically inaccurate. All members will know the answers to their own questions.
5. Carefully word questions to elicit answers portraying guilt or innocence (depending on your team).
6. The judge should keep careful notes during trial. YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A SCORECARD TO GUIDE YOU.
7. The judge should have completed enough background research on the accused before the trial so as to immediately recognize inaccuracies in statements.
8. All trial participants will come to class prepared to participate in the day’s trial.

Some Advice for "The Court of History"

*Attorneys*

1. Work with *your* witness to make sure that communication is clear and that the testimony is coordinated.

3. Work with the witness in preparing questions. Remember that there are limits on how many questions may be asked during direct examination and cross-examination. These limits will be enforced by the judge.

4. Opening/closing statements should be clear and concise. Do not exceed time limits.

*Witnesses*

1. Work closely with your attorney.

2. PROSECUTION WITNESS 🡪 Write a witness sheet that clearly identifies your character and his/her connection to Mustafa Kemal and/or his descendants. The witness sheet should contain the testimony you plan to deliver at the trial.

3. When on the witness stand, 🡪 *Maintain eye contact with the attorneys and the judge.*

4. Answer questions accurately and directly.

*To BOTH the DEFENSE and PROSECUTION TEAMS*

1. Bring *all* necessary papers with you to the courtroom.
2. ON THE DAY BEFORE THE TRIAL 🡪 Submit 2 copies (1 for the judge, 1 for the opposing team) of your witness list AND all exhibits you plan to introduce during the trial.

The judge will carefully monitor the proceedings for historical accuracy. If an attorney or witness makes an honest but important mistake, the judge will correct it swiftly and diplomatically. Minor errors will remain uncorrected. Therefore, objections from the attorneys will be unnecessary.