



Lesson Plan: Is your Speech Free?

Assessment:

Students will be evaluated through informal checks for understanding, teacher observation, self-reflections, and performing an authentic task (GRASPS) evaluated by a rubric. (See rubric and GRASPS)

	GRASPS: The purpose of this is to make the assessment (and therefore the lesson very realistic
GOAL	Your goal is to successfully argue to an impartial panel of judges the merits of the Supreme Court case that has been assigned to you.
Role	You will be either assigned to a pro or con free speech legal team. Within your group you will organize the team into the following roles. 1 lead attorney 1 associate attorney 1 legal secretary Remaining group members will be assigned paralegals
Audience	Your audience will be a 2-3 impartial panel of judges who will make the final decision of who made the best argument for their side of the case.
Situation	Due to recent events around the country dealing with groups protesting a variety of topics the idea of what is protected speech has been pushed to the forefront as a hot button social issue. The Supreme Court wants to review past cases dealing with this issue and your "law office" has been given a landmark case dealing with free speech for you to review and argue again in front of the Supreme Court. The review of this past case may hold precedent on how the supreme court will rule on future cases. Your legal team will prepare the arguments for whether or not the speech in this case should be protected under the 1st Amendment of the United States Constitution. Your legal team should use its knowledge of what makes speech protected or not based on what it learned in the prior vignettes.
Performance	Your performance will take place in a courtroom in front of an impartial panel of judges. You will take on the role you have been assigned in your group.
Standards for Success	Legal Teams- Your courtroom performance will convince the panel of judges that your argument has the strongest foundation. You will have to adhere to all assigned court room regulations which included proper use of time during opening statements, briefs and oral arguments as well as filing all the proper paper work at the conclusion of the case. Judges- You will need to listen to arguments given by both sides of the case. You then must ask thought provoking questions to both sides in order to bring clarity to yourself and the other panel members. It will be your questions that will guide you to your ultimate decision on the case. You then must file all your paperwork with the clerk of the court for review.



Quality Criteria: You will be assessed on your 1st Vignette Presentation by the following criteria.

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
Performance	The vignette included all required elements of theater assigned. (Character, Dialogue) The vignette also clearly demonstrated the assigned topic.	The vignette included all required elements of theater assigned. (Character, Dialogue). The Vignette lacked some clarity of the assigned topic.	The vignette did not include all of the elements of theater or the elements of theater were poorly demonstrated and lacked authenticity. The assigned topic was not clearly addressed.	The vignette failed to demonstrate any of the elements of theater and did not address the assigned topic in any way.



You will be assessed on your Final Courtroom Presentation by the following criteria.

	Advanced 4	Proficient 3	Basic 2	Far Below Basic 1
Elements of Theater	The performance included all required elements of theater assigned. (Character, Dialogue)	The performance included all required elements of theater assigned. (Character, Dialogue). But did not sustain throughout the performance.	The performance missed more than one of the required elements of theater.	The performance fail to demonstrate any of the elements of theater.
Notes and Writing	The group had detailed written notes and completely filled out the argument worksheet. This worksheet was composed by the legal secretary based on group collaboration led by the paralegals.	The group had detailed written notes and had at least three arguments filled out on the argument worksheet. This worksheet was composed by the legal secretary based on group collaboration led by the paralegals.	The group had some written notes and had at least two arguments filled out on the argument worksheet. This worksheet was composed by the legal secretary based on group collaboration led by the paralegals.	The group had little to no written notes and had less than two arguments filled out on the argument worksheet. This worksheet was composed by a member of the group.
Presentation skills	The lead and associate lawyers talked clearly and were organized in their arguments. They included the elements of theater in their presentation.	The lead and associate lawyers talked clearly and were somewhat organized in their arguments. They included the elements of theater in their presentation.	The lead and associate lawyers did not work collaboratively together and were not organized in their arguments. All elements of theater were not met.	No clear arguments were given and lawyers were unorganized in their approach to the case. All elements of theater were not met.