



# DWI

**A simulation of teenage drinking, driving, and the judicial process**

The authors:

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JOHN and DIANE WESLEY, the authors of *VERDICT* upon which this trial's procedures are based, are a dynamic couple who teach in the Spokane, Washington, school system. They have written many simulations for Interact, including *DESIGN*, *ECOPOLIS*, *PIONEERS*, *EQUALITY*, *MAHOPA*, *HERITAGE*, *DISCOVERY 3*, and *AGENCY*.

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**Interact**

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**Note:** In many states the terminology is *DUI—driving under the influence*.

Combining both the intrigue and suspense of a modern trial and the issues involved with teenage drinking and driving, DWI is an exciting, highly motivational role-playing simulation. The students become the actual participants in a courtroom drama, role-playing a wide variety of identities—lawyers, judges, jury members, witnesses, and other typical courtroom participants. The trial involves the death of a teenage girl who was a passenger in a car driven by an 18-year-old boy who, while allegedly drunk, ran the car off the road into a tree. Specifically, your students will have an opportunity to experience the following:

**Knowledge**

1. what the consequences can be of driving while intoxicated
2. what rules govern the operation of a courtroom
3. how our judicial system works

**Skills**

1. writing a newspaper story
2. speaking before a group of peers
3. organizing and carefully examining facts in order to draw conclusions
4. role-playing convincingly

**Attitudes**

1. appreciation of the principle that a man is innocent until proven guilty
2. concern regarding the increase of drinking alcoholic beverages among teenagers and the dangers of such behavior



# UNIT TIME CHART

**Note:** This Unit Time Chart is intended only as an example. Feel free to alter it as desired to fit your students' age, students' abilities, and time situation.

<p>Read page 1 in Student Guide</p> <p>Discuss the simulation's purpose</p> <p>Explain the General Identity information in Student Guide</p> <p>Assign roles</p> <p>Read NEWS ARTICLE #1 in Student Guide</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p>	<p>Read NEWS ARTICLE #2</p> <p>Witnesses receive CONFIDENTIAL IDENTITY INFORMATION SHEETS; read TRIAL DIARY and review the diagram of the accident scene</p> <p>Court officers, lawyers, and judge receive their direction sheets</p> <p>News reporters read HOW TO WRITE A NEWS STORY in Student Guide</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p>Read NEWS ARTICLE #3</p> <p>Read/discuss GENERAL COURTROOM PROCEDURES in Student Guide</p> <p>Lawyers begin TRIAL PREPARATION FORM and WITNESS INTERVIEW FORMS</p> <p>Witnesses begin their DWI diary entries; reporters begin news stories; court officers and judge begin their TRIAL PREPARATION FORM</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p>Work Day</p> <p>Everyone continues what was begun on Day 3</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>	<p>Trial begins</p> <p>Jury selected</p> <p>Both sides make their opening statements</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p>
<p>Trial continues</p> <p>Prosecution witnesses</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>	<p>Defense witnesses</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p>	<p>Recall witnesses</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p>	<p>Recall witnesses (if necessary)</p> <p>Closing arguments and summation</p> <p>Jury deliberates</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p>	<p>Verdict announced</p> <p>Debriefing and evaluation</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p>

what they know, but not to change the facts of the case. For example, what else happened at the party? Were people dancing? Talking? This will make the trial even more real.

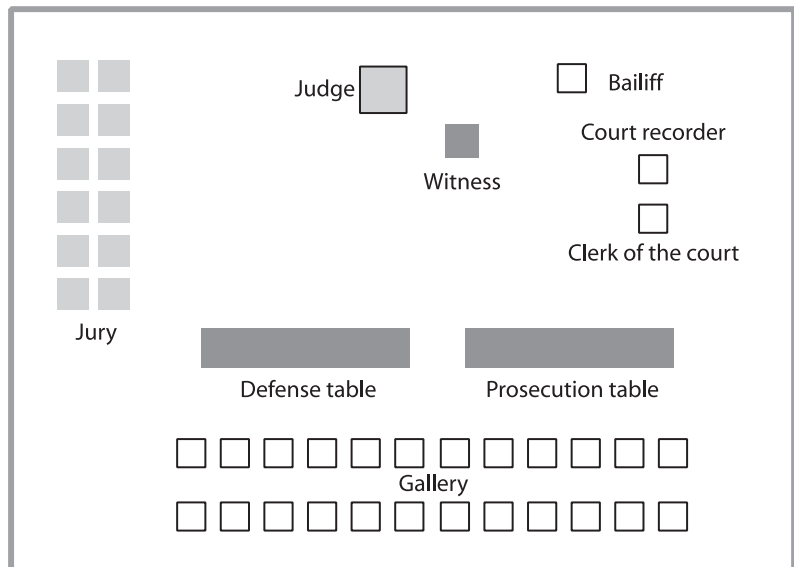
**HOOR 5**

**Objectives**

1. The lawyers will select a jury for the trial.
2. The prosecution will make an opening statement to the jury.
3. The defense will make an opening statement to the jury.

**Materials**

1. Classroom arranged to stage the trial (one possible arrangement is shown below)
2. Physical evidence and any other materials required by



the judge or lawyers

**Procedures**

1. Arrange the classroom to simulate a courtroom.
2. Have all of the students take their places in the courtroom.
3. If you will be selecting a jury from a jury pool, have the potential jurors wait outside or in another room until they are called. If there is no jury pool, have the jurors take their places in the jury box.
4. If a jury is going to be selected from a jury pool, have the judge instruct the bailiff to bring the jurors into the court



*Encourage the students to dress appropriately for their roles—especially the judge and the lawyers.*



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INFORMATION  
SHEET

## Ruth Powell

You are the health teacher at Southbury High. Alex Filn and all his friends were in your class this year. You have taught them the dangers of drinking and driving. In fact, you and Alex had a conversation in class one day about how little alcohol it takes before someone's driving is impaired. You also told the entire class about body weight, alcohol, and time needed before a person can drive safely after drinking. Another activity in your class was watching a video which showed the dangers of drinking and driving. Alex received a perfect score on his test for this section of health class.

(Note: You might want to do some research at the library or talk to the health teacher about the effects of alcohol and drinking and driving. The lawyers will need you to explain things as if you really were the health teacher.)



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## Matt Filn

You are outraged by your son's recent arrest. Alex has told you that he cannot remember if he were driving or not, and you cannot believe that he could have been. You have repeatedly talked to your son about the dangers of drinking and driving. All of his life, Alex has been very responsible. In fact, you and Alex had an agreement. He said he would call you if he had been drinking and needed a ride or have a friend who had not been drinking drive him home. While you do not approve of his drinking, you wanted to communicate to him that if he did drink, he needed to act responsibly. When you found out Chris had been in the car, you became certain that he must have been driving and not Alex. You never cared much for Chris because you think he is a bad influence on your son.



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## Nancy Filn

Alex is your pride and joy. You cannot believe what has happened. Your husband has been trying to find other explanations for the accident, but you have just been in a daze over it. Alex is a straight A student. He is polite, respectful, and responsible. He has never gotten into trouble before. He has nice friends. He has always been honest and trustworthy with you. He even cleans his room every day. He has never lied to you, and always does what he is told. You cannot believe that he is responsible for Anita's death.



# DWI

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## Student Guide

### Introduction

You are about to participate in a role-playing simulation in which you and your classmates will become members of a typical American courtroom. During the next two weeks a courtroom battle will take place in your classroom to determine whether a young man who is accused of manslaughter is guilty or innocent.

### Devastating accident

The trial is based on an accident involving the issue of **DWI**—driving while intoxicated. Three high school seniors attended a party with alcohol. They rode home together, and the driver had been drinking. The driver allegedly crashed the car, causing the death of his female passenger. The driver has been arrested and awaits formal charges.

### Roles

During the trial you will play the role of one of the people involved in the courtroom battle. You may be the judge, one of the lawyers, a member of the jury, a court official such as the bailiff, one of the students at the party, or one of several other important witnesses. To play your role successfully, you are going to have to prepare carefully and thoroughly. The success of the trial depends on how well all persons are prepared for their roles and how well they carry out these roles.

### Preparation

Once you have your identity, you will spend the next several days preparing for the trial. If you are the judge or a jury member, you will study the law; if you are a lawyer, you will interview witnesses and prepare your case; and if you are a witness, you will review what happened and organize your testimony. Many of you will receive confidential identity information about the person whose role you are playing. This information will help you prepare for the trial. Only you will receive this secret information. **Whom** you tell and **what** you tell concerning this information is a decision you will have to make as the trial progresses.

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# Southbury Police Report

**Re:**

Anita Lobel  
Vehicular  
Manslaughter

**Facts:**

- Speed limit = 45 mph
- Car traveling at 70 mph
- No skid marks
- No bad weather that night

Old Main Street

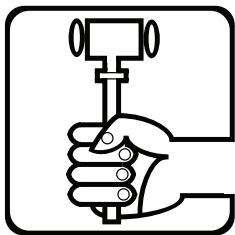


## GENERAL COURTROOM PROCEDURES

Everyone in the courtroom must follow a number of important procedures and rules. Below is a general list of the most important ones. Additional rules and procedures that govern certain individuals will be found in the special directions handouts for various individuals' roles.



The diagram at right is an example of how you and your teacher may decide to arrange your classroom for the trial.



To play your role effectively, you must use your imagination. Be creative and inventive. Try to think and act as you imagine the person you are role-playing would think and act.

1. The courtroom must remain quiet at all times while court is in session so the jury, judge, attorneys, and other courtroom personnel can hear all testimony and directions given. Any spectator who persists in talking during the trial will be asked to leave the courtroom.
2. Any conferring by lawyers with each other or the defendants while testimony is being given must be done in a quiet whisper so that no one else will be disturbed.
3. All persons present at this trial must obey all orders given by the judge or any other court officer. Failure to do so will mean that the person may be excused from the courtroom.
4. While addressing the court, the judge, all attorneys, and all witnesses must speak clearly and loudly enough to be heard by all.
5. It is the responsibility of all witnesses to read over their identity information very carefully and to be prepared when called on to testify.
6. All witnesses will be interviewed by attorneys from both sides before the trial begins. Cooperation with these attorneys is requested; however, during such interviews, witnesses are not under oath and, hence, are not subject to perjury (lying deliberately) charges.
7. However, any witness on the stand during the trial who lies, knowingly misrepresents the truth, or fails to answer a question is subject to criminal penalties for contempt of court or for perjury.
8. Defendants are not required to testify. If they do, however, they must answer any and all questions.
9. There are several methods of jury selection. Your teacher will select the one that best suits your class size and availability of other potential jurors.
10. Jurors, once selected, will remain on the jury until the trial is over. If one or more jurors are absent, the teacher and judge will decide if the trial should be recessed until that person or persons returns.
11. The jurors must elect a foreperson who becomes their leader and their speaker.
12. A juror may not ask a witness a question during the trial.
13. If a juror has a question of the court, either during the trial or during deliberations, the foreperson should be notified and he/she will pass the question to the bailiff who will pass it to the judge.

