

4.6 Practicing

The Class Hearing

Step 1: Decide Roles

Review the descriptions of the team roles and assign each team member a role. There is only one attorney, but you may have any number of people in other roles.



Attorney:

- Prepare opening statement to introduce information about the drug and what you want to show about the drug.
- Prepare questions to ask witnesses, such as: What is your name? What relationship do you have with one or more drug users? How have you seen the drug affect your loved one/friend/acquaintance? How did the person's drug use affect you/your friendship/your family/your community? What message would you like to leave the court about drug use?
- Prepare closing statement to summarize your argument against the use of the drug.

Family Member(s):

- Decide your relationship to the drug user (e.g., brother or sister, child, husband or wife, parent, grandparent).
- Consider the effects of the drug use on the user, you, and your family. Make up a realistic story based on what you have learned about the drug from your research.
- Plan how to answer the attorney's questions. See above.
- Testify during the hearing about the harmful effects of the drug.

Friend(s):

- Decide your relationship to the drug user (e.g., friend from school, work colleague, neighbor).
- Consider the effects of the drug use on the user and your friendship. Make up a realistic story based on what you have learned about the drug from your research.
- Plan how to answer the attorney's questions. See above.
- Testify during the hearing about the harmful effects of the drug.

Community Member(s):

- Decide your role in the community (e.g., police officer, emergency room doctor or nurse, teacher, neighbor, drug counselor, local business owner).
- Determine whether you will testify about the effects of the drug on one user in particular or about the broader effects of the drug on the community. For example, you might be a doctor or nurse who has treated many drug users.
- Plan how to answer the attorney's questions. See above.
- Testify during the hearing about the harmful effects of the drug.

Practicing

The Class Hearing

Step 2: Plan Your Case

Use the space below to outline and make notes for your role in the group. Then work with the team to revise questions and answers for each group role. As you consider your role, think about what changes in behavior and/or appearance you might have observed in the person using the drug. What effects of drug use might you have seen? Make notes below.



Step 3: Practice Your Presentation

Review the outline for the court hearing below. Then write the order of the team's speakers below and practice your presentation. Make any changes needed.

Court Hearing Schedule

1. Judge Teacher welcomes class and introduces the hearing.
2. Judge Teacher invites each team to present its case.
3. Judge Teacher responds to each case presented.
4. Judge Teacher concludes the hearing.

Team Presentation (add lines if needed)

1. Attorney _____ presents opening statement.
2. Attorney calls first witness to testify: _____.
3. Attorney calls second witness to testify: _____.
4. Attorney calls third witness to testify: _____.
5. Attorney calls fourth witness to testify: _____.
6. Attorney presents closing statement.

Reflecting

Reflect on what you've learned about the harmful effects of drugs in this lesson.

What?

What drug did you research? What are the harmful effects of this drug? What are the harmful effects of some of the other drugs put on trial?

So What?

How do you feel about what you learned today about drugs? Did any of the information surprise you? If so, what?

Now What?

How will you respond if someone asks you to try one of these drugs? What would you say to a friend who wanted to try one of these drugs? What information would you provide?