**Mr. Gordon**

**Class Needs:**

1. Pen or Pencil (Every day)
2. 3 ring binder with 4 dividers and loose paper
3. Workbooks- provided in class
4. Any items assigned in class (Mock trial packets, cases, etc..)

**Resources:**

1. Aspen Publishers- Trial Techniques
2. Microsoft Word 7 and Internet (Permission in agenda required)
3. Case sheets and worksheets
4. Class preparation trial packets

**Grading:**

1. 10% of each quarter is based on class work (Preparation, short exercises)
2. 20% of each quarter is based on Opening and Closing statement techniques
3. 20% of each quarter is based on direct examination/witness prep
4. 20% of each quarter is based on cross examination/question style
5. 30% of each quarter is based in understanding of objections, exhibits and court techniques

**Purpose of Debate, Communication and Trial Skills**

*You will learn:*

How to become both a better communicator and understanding the law. This course is based on allowing students to understand all the work that goes into preparing a real court trial, using critical thinking skills, and handling both a witness and court room exhibits properly. In addition, students will learn how to use real courtroom objections properly and why they are used. Students will have to be prepared to argue both a practice and final trial in class, in front of a judge. Scoring will be based on a rubric given to them in class, focusing on technique, as well as structure of their arguments.

**Classroom Procedures**

1. Students will be assigned a workstation, partners and teams for the trials.
2. No personal items can be left in the classroom without permission.
3. No food or drink in the class at any time.
4. Students must be “on time”, seated and prepared to work when the bell rings.
5. “All” daily assignments will be posted on the board when students arrive, as well as on the teacher website
6. NO Cell phones, Ipods, headphones or other electronic devices allowed.
7. Come to class to have fun, learn exciting new things and ask questions at any time!

**Final Exam**

This will be given in the library one day the final week of class. Students will be given a case packet, roles (Lawyer or witness) and must be prepared to complete their role as it applies to the team goals. Grades will be based on preparation, trial techniques, use of notes, use of objections, understanding of facts and overall presentation.

**Contact Information**

Parents will be notified if you fail to complete assigned work, are late to class, have poor attendance or lack respect towards your classmates or teacher. Any student who maliciously destroys school property will be reported to the principal and parents will be notified as well. My contact information for all students and parents is as follows:

716-926-1720 extension 2230

[Jgordon@frontier.wnyric.org](mailto:Jgordon@frontier.wnyric.org)

**Debate, Communication and Trial Skills Mr. Gordon**

**Student Last Name: First Name Period**

*I have read the Debate; communication and trial skills course guidelines and believe that I understand them.*

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**Date Students Signature**

*I have read the Debate; communication and trial skills course guidelines. I understand that my signature indicates neither approval nor disapproval, but simply that I have seen them. However, comments can be attached below:*

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**Date Parents Signature**