

Lesson Skill: Making predictions and generalizations; drawing inferences and conclusions

Strand Reading—nonfiction

SOL 9.5
10.5
11.5
12.5

Materials

- Local newspaper

Lesson

1. Have students find an article in the newspaper that provides complete details about a crime.
2. Have students use the information in the article to develop a trial brief about the crime, including the following:
 - A summary of the crime. (What was the crime? How was it committed? When was it committed? Who was the victim or victims?)
 - A presentation of evidence found.
 - A description of possible witnesses.
 - A written discussion that gives reasons why this criminal should be prosecuted. (Here students should make predictions and generalizations and draw inferences and conclusions.)
 - A written determination about whether the writer would like to be the prosecuting attorney, the defense attorney, or the judge in this case, and the reasons for this choice.
3. Have each student present his/her brief to the class. Have the class take notes on each brief and then prioritize the cases in the order they should go to trial.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Provide students with a sample article
- Model process of completing a brief
- Show videos of effective briefs
- Graphic Organizer for brief development
- Guided note taking worksheet
- Work in pairs or small groups to create the briefs