

Responsibilities of Role Players

Prosecution and Defense Teams

Analyze evidence/documents in order to develop an argument/case either for or against Andrew Jackson as a common man. Create witness questions, a rebuttal, and a closing statement.

Judge

Oversees the trial. (The person most likely to hold this position will be the teacher but does not have to be.)

Jury

Listens, deliberates, and comes to a ruling on whether or not Andrew Jackson is a true common man. Twelve people typically sit on jury, however numbers can be modified based on the size of the class or could be made up of another history class or group of faculty members. The deliberation of the jury can also be made into a modified version of a Socratic seminar where the rest of the class watches as the jury deliberates. The judge and jury should be responsible for researching their roles—a jury-led presentation to the class on other mock trials might be beneficial.

Role Players

The role players—Andrew Jackson, “Two Moons,” and Davy Crockett—will research and fill out bio worksheets. Students will be required to answer in character during the trial.

Andrew Jackson: defending his title as the first “common man president.”

“Two Moons”: representing all Native American tribes removed from the Southeast, he is a fictional, well-educated member of the Cherokee Nation.

Davy Crockett: representing citizens from Tennessee who benefitted from the expansion of universal male suffrage to all white men, detested the National Bank, and supported squatters’ rights—yet did not agree with the Indian Removal Act.

Other Roles to Consider

Sketch Artist, Reporters, Bailiff