

Richard Nixon



**A Mock Trial :
Guilty or Innocent?**

Name: _____

Trial of Richard Nixon: Positions

Our class will conduct a mock trial of Richard Nixon. Did he commit burglary and blackmail during the Watergate Scandal?

The following will be the positions in the mock trial, as well as a brief description of each:

1. **Richard Nixon**: This person will research the background of Richard Nixon and should be prepared to defend himself/herself when the prosecuting attorneys question him/her. This student must know a fairly thorough background of Nixon in order to do this.
2. **Prosecuting Attorneys**: These attorneys will prepare at least three specific questions that they will ask Richard Nixon. These questions will be intended to show that Nixon was guilty of burglary and blackmail.
3. **Defense Attorneys**: These attorneys will prepare at least three specific questions that they will ask Richard Nixon. These questions will be intended to show that Nixon was innocent of burglary and blackmail.
4. **Jury**: These people will be responsible for researching some background information on Richard Nixon so they will be well prepared during the trial. They will listen to the statements and questions of the attorneys and Nixon throughout the trial, take notes, and eventually determine if Nixon should be found innocent or guilty.

Trial of Richard Nixon Process of the Trial

The following will show the process of the trial of Richard Nixon:

1. Prosecuting attorneys will give an opening statement intended to show the guilt of Nixon. This statement will be 2-3 minutes.
2. Defense attorneys will give an opening statement intended to show the innocence of Nixon. This statement will be 2-3 minutes.
3. Prosecuting attorneys will cross examine Richard Nixon and ask their questions. He will reply.
4. Defense attorneys will cross examine Richard Nixon and ask their questions. He will reply.
5. Richard Nixon will make any final statements to defend his innocence. These statements should last 2-3 minutes.
6. The jury will deliberate and declare Richard Nixon's innocence or guilt, along with three reasons why they came to their decision.

Richard Nixon

Your job is to research facts about Richard Nixon's life, as well as facts about his involvement with the Watergate Scandal. Your job is ultimately to prove that you are innocent and you must be able to defend yourself when asked questions by the prosecuting attorneys. Be sure at least half (six) of your facts are background on Nixon's involvement with the Watergate Scandal.

Facts about Richard Nixon:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Prosecuting Attorneys

Your job is to research facts about Richard Nixon's life, as well as facts about his involvement with the Watergate Scandal. Your job is ultimately to prove that he is guilty of burglary and blackmail and you must be able to prove this point, as well as have enough information about his life to be able to write an opening statement with your partners.

Facts about Richard Nixon:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Defense Attorneys

Your job is to research facts about Richard Nixon's life, as well as facts about his involvement with the Watergate Scandal. Your job is ultimately to prove that he is innocent of burglary and blackmail and you must be able to prove this point, as well as have enough information about his life to be able to write an opening statement with your partners.

Facts about Richard Nixon:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Jury

Your job is to research facts about Richard Nixon's life. Your job is ultimately to come to a decision about Nixon's innocence or guilt, and the more information you know about his life and background, the more informed your decision will be.

Facts about Richard Nixon:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Websites for Research:

Specific websites focusing on Nixon's dealings with the Watergate Scandal:

<https://www.history.com/topics/1970s/watergate>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Watergate-Scandal>

<http://watergate.info/>

Websites providing general background on Richard Nixon:

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/richard-m-nixon>

<https://www.biography.com/people/richard-nixon-9424076>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/richard-m-nixon/>

	4	3	2	1
Research	Student researched 12 or more facts.	Student researched 10 or 11 facts.	Student researched 8 or 9 facts.	Student researched 7 or less facts.
Opening Statement/Jury Research	Attorneys provided excellent summary in opening statement and jury provided significant reasons for decision.	Attorneys provided some details in summary in the opening statement and jury provided some reasons for decision.	Attorneys provided very little details in summary in the opening statement and jury provided very few reasons for decision.	Attorneys provided no details in summary of statement and jury provided no reasons for decision.
Group Work	Student worked well with partners.	Student did not fully participate when working with partners.	Student barely participated in group work.	Student did not contribute to group work.
Significance of Research	Research points were significant and related to topic.	Research points were somewhat significant and related to topic.	Research points were somewhat insignificant and not fully related to topic.	Research points were insignificant and not related to topic at all.