

Courts in Your Community: Civic Engagement Activity

Objective

Explore how the judicial system works in your local community and understand the role of courts in upholding the rule of law.



Overview

Courts are a cornerstone of democracy, ensuring that laws are applied fairly and that everyone's rights are protected. This activity gives students a hands-on opportunity to learn about the judicial system, meet legal professionals, and experience court procedures firsthand.

Activities



1. Interview a Judge

- Prepare thoughtful questions about the judge's role, responsibilities, and experiences.
- Ask how decisions are made, how they ensure fairness, and what advice they have for civic-minded citizens.



2. Attend a Court Hearing

- Observe a real court proceeding to see how trials and hearings operate.
- Take notes on courtroom procedures, decorum, and how judges, lawyers, and juries interact.



3. Learn About Jury Service

- Research the jury selection process in your county.
- Reflect on the responsibilities of being a juror and how citizens contribute to justice.

Reflection

After completing the activities, write a short reflection:

- What did you learn about your local courts?
- How do courts protect citizens' rights and uphold the rule of law?
- How might this experience influence your understanding of civic responsibility?

