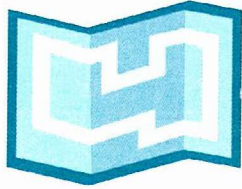


Teen Discourse and Decisions: TD-Squared Legal and Life Skills That Set Teens Up for Success



Ignite

Reality Check Quiz

Decision-Making Activity

Some Decisions Have Legal and Long-Term Consequences



No pre-event classroom preparation.

Learn Civility Skills

Engage

Civil Discourse Activity

Set Ground Rules
Identify the Language of Civility



Work with a Relatable Teen Scenario

Involve

Courtroom Simulation

Judge Presides
Attorneys Coach

Student Attorneys Make Arguments



Practice Real-Life Civil Discourse

Apply

Jury Deliberations

All Learning Styles Participate

Event Centerpiece:
Student Jurors Debate Issues

Interact with the Human Face of the Judiciary

Reflect

Friendly Conversation with a Judge

Student Q/A on Any Topic

Discussion on Decision Making



Find Federal Courts' Civics Education Events in Southern Florida at <http://www.flstd.uscourts.gov/?s=civics>

Find Classroom-Ready Resources at uscourts.gov/about/educational_resources.gov



Program Description

Teen Discourse and Decisions – TD²
Legal and Life Skills for Civil Discussion and Decisions

Teen Discourse and Decisions, or TD-Squared is a program offered by the federal courts in the Southern District of Florida that brings high school and college students into federal courthouses for legal proceedings that stem from situations in which law-abiding young people can find themselves. These court hearings (not mock trials) are realistic simulations that showcase jury deliberations in which all students and learning styles participate in civil discourse.

Proceedings are conducted in courtrooms presided over by federal judges who are assisted by volunteer attorneys, including members of local chapters of the Federal Bar Association. Although student attorneys argue the case, student jurors and their deliberations are at the centerpiece of the courtroom event.

Students leave these three-hour programs with sharpened tools for civil discourse and decision making and a heightened awareness of situations they may not realize can end with an appearance in federal court. They also experience the differences between media portrayals of the court system and what happens in real life. Participants interact with the human face of the justice system – judges, attorneys, and other professionals -- and their courtroom experience motivates them to serve willingly on juries when called.

What Happens in the Courtroom Program?

1. Reality Check Quiz and Discussion Starter

- Students start by taking an attention-getting Reality Check Quiz that tests their knowledge of situations that can put them in legal jeopardy. At the end of the program, they discuss the issues with the host judge and leave with insights that have practical applications in their lives.

2. Civil Discourse Skill Building

- This activity has two parts: 1) Guiding students in establishing their own ground rules and group norms for civil discussion. 2) Brainstorming and listing examples of language that they can use to create and maintain an environment that fosters civility and respect.

3. Courtroom Simulation

- Student jurors are featured in the program as they decide a contemporary Supreme Court case that is modified to apply to their lives. The jurors base their verdict on arguments made by the student attorneys. Not a mock trial, this abbreviated hearing helps participants differentiate between what they see on television and in movies and what they experience in a real courtroom.

4. Reality Check Discussion

- The program concludes with a candid conversation with the host judge about the real-life scenarios in the **Reality Check Quiz** that can have legal and long-term consequences.

Teachers' Time Commitment – No Classroom Preparation for Students.

Courtroom Program: Approximately three hours – from orientation to adjournment.

Note to Teachers: There is no pre-court preparation on the part of students or their teachers. All preparation is incorporated into the courtroom event.

The Federal Courts in West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce Present
Teen Discourse and Decisions – TD2
Volunteer Interest Sheet

Yes! Sign me up for TD-Squared. I'm volunteering to improve the level of civil discourse.
I want to have an impact today and in the future on the life skills of the next generation of jurors.

Name _____

Law Firm, Agency, Other Affiliation _____

My e-mail address

My phone numbers

I'm available to volunteer in Fort Pierce ____ **West Palm Beach** ____ **Both** ____

Comments About My Availability

