

Name: _____

Alligator River Jury Questionnaire

1. Describe a time when a friend asked for advice. What kind of advice did you give? Did your friend follow that advice? What was the outcome?
-- *and/or* --
1. Describe a time when you asked a friend for advice. What kind of advice did your friend give? Did you follow that advice? What was the outcome?
2. If you truly loved someone, how far would you be willing to go in order to be with that person full time?
3. Describe a time when you feel the price you paid for something or for some service was too high. Did you feel cheated?
4. Describe a time when something you offered had less value than you received. Did you feel like you were entitled to your profit, or did you feel guilty?
5. Have you ever been turned down for a date or felt rejected in any way? How did you feel in that situation, and how were you able to overcome those feelings?
6. Describe a time when you were glad to see someone get punished. Were they punished fairly or unjustly?
7. Describe a situation where you feel violence is an appropriate response. If you believe that violence is never a solution to a problem, please defend your position.
8. What do feel should be the rights of victims? Should they have any say in what happens to their attacker? Explain your answer.
9. Can girls really be friends with guys? Do you have more girl friends or guy friends?
10. What is your opinion of nosy people who like to gossip and spread rumors? What do you think makes people so interested in others' lives that they talk about them behind their backs?

Congratulations! You are an **attorney for the defense**. You argue that Abigail is the true victim. Abigail was taken advantage of by a shrewd businessman and forced to pay a price that others would not have to pay. All her friends either ignore or misunderstand her, and her one true love has forsaken her. Abigail never suggested that Slug attack Gregory, and she had nothing to do with the alleged crime.

Congratulations! You are an **attorney for the defense**. You argue that Abigail is the true victim. Abigail was taken advantage of by a shrewd businessman and forced to pay a price that others would not have to pay. All her friends either ignore or misunderstand her, and her one true love has forsaken her. Abigail never suggested that Slug attack Gregory, and she had nothing to do with the alleged crime.

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Congratulations! You are **Ivan**. You testify that Abigail has many male friends and she doesn't sleep with them. You feel badly for your friend, Abigail, who you know can be emotional but is non-violent.

Congratulations! You are **Slug**. You testify that an argument you had with Gregory escalated, and that while Gregory deserved to be taught a lesson, you never intended to kill him. Furthermore, you went to Gregory of your own free will and not as part of some conspiracy.

Congratulations! You are **Abigail**, the defendant. You cannot believe that you are on trial when you feel you are the true victim. You are a young woman in love who faced a horrible rejection by turning to a trusted friend. You would never take advantage of that friendship by suggesting violent revenge.

Congratulations! You are the **judge**. Your main responsibility will be to enforce courtroom procedures and civility. You need to know when to sustain or overrule objections and may even question a witness. You may also tell a lawyer to limit his questioning if you feel the case is being unnecessarily dragged on. Depending on the jury's verdict, you will decide what, if any, punishment Abigail will receive. You will also decide the Gregory's fate if the defense has proved their countersuit against him. Slug will be tried separately at another date.

ROLE SELECTION SLIPS: Cut out the following descriptions and stick to the board. Students may randomly choose.

Congratulations! You are an **attorney for the prosecution**. Your responsibility is to represent Gregory. You will explain to the judge/jury that Abigail unfairly maligned the character of Gregory to Slug, who viciously attacked him. You may also argue that her instigation of a conspiracy places her under a more severe penalty than Slug, the actual attacker.

Congratulations! You are an **attorney for the prosecution**. Your responsibility is to represent Gregory. You will explain to the judge/jury that Abigail unfairly maligned the character of Gregory to Slug, who viciously attacked him. You may also argue that her instigation of a conspiracy places her under a more severe penalty than Slug, the actual attacker.

Congratulations! You are an **attorney for the prosecution**. Your responsibility is to represent Gregory. You will explain to the judge/jury that Abigail unfairly maligned the character of Gregory to Slug, who viciously attacked him. You may also argue that her instigation of a conspiracy places her under a more severe penalty than Slug, the actual attacker.

Congratulations! You are an **attorney for the prosecution**. Your responsibility is to represent Gregory. You will explain to the judge/jury that Abigail unfairly maligned the character of Gregory to Slug, who viciously attacked him. You may also argue that her instigation of a conspiracy places her under a more severe penalty than Slug, the actual attacker.

Congratulations! You are **Gregory**. You testify that even though you and Abigail had a physical relationship, there was no promise of marriage. You are appalled to find out that she sleeps around and even though Slug nearly killed you, you blame Abigail.

Congratulations! You are **Sinbad**. You testify that Abigail did, indeed, trade her body to you for a boat ride. You are a cunning businessman who merely sets a price for your services.

Congratulations! You are an **Alligator**. You will testify that Abigail has been seen crossing the river several times before the bridge was washed out. You are privy to the activity of all the inhabitants on either side of the river.

Congratulations! You are an **attorney for the defense**. You argue that Abigail is the true victim. Abigail was taken advantage of by a shrewd businessman and forced to pay a price that others would not have to pay. All her friends either ignore or misunderstand her, and her one true love has forsaken her. Abigail never suggested that Slug attack Gregory, and she had nothing to do with the alleged crime.



TRIAL GUIDELINES: People vs. Abigail

Counts/Charges: Attempted Murder (premeditated)
Attempted Manslaughter
Aggravated Assault
Malicious Mayhem
Pain and Suffering

Prosecution may change or add additional charges.

Plea: Not Guilty.
Defense: Prove that Abigail never suggested that Slug attack Gregory. Prove that Gregory was not indefensible against Slug.

Burden of Proof: Defendant is innocent until proven guilty.
Prosecution: Prove that Abigail habitually uses men to get what she wants and that she plotted to have Gregory assaulted (and then laughed about it).

Possible Countersuit: Breaking verbal contract by rejecting Abigail.

Defense: Must show that Gregory is in violation of the law by disavowing a promise of marriage.

During the Trial: Gather evidence by using facts and interpretive judgment from the story, which can be used as deposition/transcript/testimony. Prepare questions and responses for witnesses, and anticipate questions and responses from the opposition during cross-examination. Consider objecting to an opposing attorney for leading the witness, being argumentative, allowing a witness to perjure herself, etc. All team members should be prepared to replace each other in the event of an absence, so take GOOD NOTES!

Judge and Jury: Verdict will be based solely on trial events NOT predetermined conclusions. Judge will enforce court procedures.

For the trial, you may bring into evidence such things as x-rays, medical documents, or other items. The only catch is that both the defense and prosecution need to have a copy of your exhibits BEFORE the trial.

There are assorted handouts to help you with **courtroom procedures**, objections, etc.

During the deliberation, the foreperson of the jury should make certain that the following questions are addressed.

Jury Survey

Did the defendant, Abigail, intend to kill Gregory? Yes___ No___

Did the defendant, Abigail, encourage Slug to beat Gregory? Yes___ No___

Did the plaintiff, Gregory, suffer near-death injuries? Yes___ No___

To what degree, if any, is Slug answerable for the crimes of assault? Yes___ No___

Pre-Text: The Alligator River Story

Once upon a time there was a woman named Abigail who was in love with a man named Gregory. Gregory lived on the shore of a river. Abigail lived on the opposite shore of the river. The river which separated the two lovers was teeming with man-eating alligators. Unfortunately, the bridge had been washed out. So she went to ask Sinbad, a riverboat captain, to take her across. He said he would be glad to if she would consent to go to bed with him preceding the voyage.

She promptly refused and went to a friend named Ivan to explain her plight. Ivan did not want to be involved at all in the situation.

Abigail felt her only alternative was to accept Sinbad's terms. Sinbad fulfilled his promise to Abigail and delivered her into the arms of Gregory.

When she told Gregory about her amorous escapade in order to cross the river, Gregory cast her aside with disdain.

Heartsick and rejected, Abigail turned to Slug with her tale of woe. Slug, feeling compassion for Abigail, sought out Gregory and beat him brutally. Abigail was overjoyed at the sight of Gregory getting his due. As the sun sets on the horizon, we hear Abigail laughing at Gregory.

Acknowledgement :

Values Clarification, A Handbook of Practical Strategies for Teachers and Students, revised edition, by Sidney B. Simon, Leland W. Howe & Howard Kirschenbaum, A Hart Book, A & W Visual Library, New York, 1978

The Situation

You have read the story of Alligator River. Now it is time to focus on the alleged crime committed against Gregory. The alleged victim has filed a complaint, including assault and attempted murder, and Abigail has been taken into custody accused of a murder-for-hire scheme.

Abigail is claiming innocence. She maintains that she merely went to Slug for comfort and in no way conspired to cause injury or plot revenge against her former lover.

The Set-Up

After finding out who you are in this mock trial, you will have limited time to prepare for your role. Lawyers will deliver opening and closing statements and witnesses, as well, should be prepared to testify. Your statements should include how you know the plaintiff or defendant and what you feel really happened regarding the particular incidents of which you either were a part or witnessed. The judge and jury will listen attentively and maintain impartiality.