

The end of the 10th grade is marked by an important project-based event before students can enter their 11th grade year: 10th Grade Mock Trials. 1) Public performance, 2) individual accountability, 3) mandatory participation, and 4) standards-based alignment (content & skills) lie at the core of this rite of passage. These four core elements ensure that the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Mock Trials are high stakes, authentic, and rigorous presentations of learning.

# 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MOCK TRIALS

@ Camino Nuevo High School

# A Snapshot of Mock Trials

- During Mock Trials, students work together in legal teams to defend positions on contemporary controversial topics rooted in at least one of four social justice concentrations: political justice, human rights, popular culture, and environmental justice.
- "Should the Death of Osama Bin-Laden Be Celebrated?"
- "Could the United States have prevented the Holocaust?"
- "Do the potential benefits of using embryonic stem cells to treat disease outweigh medical risks and ethical concerns?"

# Mock Trials *in the Past*

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Roles (all)

### “Interdisciplinary”

- ❑ Coach (3 – 4 topics)
- ❑ Trial procedures & conduct
- ❑ Opening/closing statements
- ❑ Direct/cross examinations
- ❑ Evidence
- ❑ Research paper
- ❑ During/after CST timeline

- ❖ There was not enough time for CST review in each class prior to Mock Trials.
- ❖ MT was typically a logistical hot mess.
- ❖ The “quality” of MT did not match the “quantity” of time spent on them.
- ❖ Grading was not necessarily authentic to subject matter, nor was it equitable across classes.

# Mock Trials for 2011 – 2012

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Roles

*Authentically* standards-based.

- World History  
Topic research/critical thinking.
- English Language Arts  
Writing/editing statements.
- Biology: Remediation only.  
Procedures/conduct/rubrics.
- Math CONTINUES separately.

There will be time for CST review in each class prior to MT.

MT will not be a hot mess, logistically.

The “quality” of MT will match the “quantity” of time spent on them.

Grading will be authentic to subject matter and equitable across classes.

Remediation will be available.



## Maintaining the Integrity of CA Content Standards

SWBAT develop key content understandings\* & skills\* that are relevant to MT.

\*World History & English Language Arts classes (expository, critical thinking, history content, etc. standards).