

Post Hearing Report- Mock Trial of Taylor and Michael

As a group of five we have been working on this task for about three weeks. Once we had completed the first assignment of the module we got started right away. We first decided on a case study and then we decided who would have what roles within the study. It was unfortunate that I was unwell on the day that these imperative decisions were made. Everyone, once assigned their roles took it seriously right away and began to research on their own and also the two members of the defence team paired up where necessary as did the two members of the prosecution team. I made sure that I used my Echo pen to record when these paired discussions were being made because this meant that if I was only able to focus on one at a time in the actual classroom session then I could listen to the other group when I got home. I believe one of the strongest aspects of this task was our ability to work in a group, even though it was technically one team against the other to win my judgement, everyone was still civil and listened to everyone's points and when it came to making the decisions on whether they should be British or whether either should be high functioning enough to work, we came to them quickly and easily with no issues.

Another thing that I believe the whole group found useful was going to see how actual court cases were done in the Swansea Crown Court. I really believe that positively affected the final outcome on the day of our trial. One thing I found particularly interesting on that day was the court usher in the death by dangerous driving case told us that "would be a good one" for us to watch, it was fascinating how desensitised she seemed to be to the idea of a death by dangerous driving case. It was unfortunate that Jaya was unable to attend this but I believe that after filling her in it did not affect her work.

Some things I would do differently if I were to do this again would be to make sure I am there for more group sessions although I will say I did not feel I missed out on anything that could not be told to me after but it is always good to attend every session, especially during group work. I also regret not attending the conference because although that was not to do with the trial I did hear it was very beneficial. I also believe I let my nerves get the better of me during the actual trial as I stuttered and used many hesitations such as "umm" meaning that my speech was not as fluent as it could have been.

Overall though, I believe this went better than any of us were expecting it to go as this was an unfamiliar task and took us all out of our comfort zone but still we managed it well and it was also something enjoyable which got us out of the classroom into a different learning environment.