The elements of the program are adaptable and include the following options:

- in-class discussion of the judicial system (teacher-led, not supplied)
- in-class discussion of community participation on a jury (teacher-led, not supplied)
- in-class preparation for mock trial with teams, either teacher-led or attorney-led
- attendance at mock trial at either district or circuit court, presided over by a sitting judge and with participation of local attorneys, with or without other court events (tour, etc.)

The mock trial itself involves an alleged theft using Spongebob Squarepants characters familiar to all students. This is a civil trial seeking money, not a criminal trial. The trial is able to be scaled to the desires of the teacher and the abilities of the class. In its fullest form, the trial includes:

- active roles for up to 40 students
- ability of teams to exercise critical and analytical thinking in order to craft questions to ask the witnesses (or teams may follow a prepared script)
- opportunities for demonstration of advanced verbal skills during oral presentations of opening and closing statements
- a series of colorful, fun exhibits which the students can use during their examination and which will assist with students maintaining interest
- a humorous script and scene designed to maximize student involvement
Summary of Case:

- Mr. Krabs owns the very successful Krusty Krab restaurant with its landmark sandwich, the Krabby Patty.
- Plankton runs his competing (but less successful) restaurant, the Chum Bucket. He has a long history of attempting to steal the secret formula for the Krabby Patty.
- The secret formula is kept in a glass bottle in a location known only to Krabs and his employee, Spongebob Squarepants.
- On the night in question, Spongebob was working late. He went to check on the formula and found it missing from the bottle.
- Krabs then sued Plankton, accusing him of stealing the formula.
- Plankton denies stealing the formula. Plankton admits that, in the past, he has tried to steal the formula, but says he was at home reading the night of the alleged theft.
- Patrick Star, friend of Spongebob, dusted the bottle for fingerprints and found prints he believes belong to Plankton.

Roles and Process:

- Witnesses (in order of presentation):
  - Eugene Krabs: owner of Krusty Krab and the secret formula
  - Spongebob Squarepants: Krusty Krab employee
  - Patrick Star
  - Sheldon Plankton: defendant; owner of the Chum Bucket

- Roles: 4 witnesses; two teams of attorneys (up to 6 per team [opening, 4 witnesses, closing]); jury of 6-12 members

- Flow of trial:
  - Bailiff calls court to order and introduces judge
  - Judge gives brief intro, asks for opening statements
  - Krabs attorney opening
  - Plankton attorney opening
  - Krabs direct
  - Krabs cross
  - Spongebob direct
  - Spongebob cross
  - Patrick direct
  - Patrick cross
  - Plankton direct
  - Plankton cross
  - Krabs closing
  - Plankton closing
"Opening": A brief statement to the jury by the attorney for each party as to what evidence will be presented and what the case is about.

"Direct": Each party to a lawsuit may call witnesses to present evidence thought to be favorable to that party's position. When a party calls a witness, the lawyer for that party asks the witness questions designed to elicit helpful testimony. This is a "direct examination."

"Cross": Once a party calls a witness and completes direct examination, the lawyer for the other party may then question the witness and attempt to weaken or poke holes in the testimony of that witness. This is "cross examination."

"Closing": After the submission of all evidence (testimony and documents), each lawyer summarizes their case to the jury, ties all the evidence together, and tries to convince the jury to rule in their client's favor. This is a "closing argument."

"Jury charge and deliberations": After the closing arguments, the jury is "charged", or instructed, by the judge what law governs the decisions to be made by the jury. After being charged, the jury "deliberates", or speaks amongst themselves in private, to come to a decision. Because this is a civil case, only a majority of votes is necessary for a verdict. Once the jury has come to a decision, they should let the judge know and then he will ask the jury what their verdict is. In this case, the verdict will either be for the Plaintiff (Krabs) along with a dollar amount, or for Plankton (meaning Krabs gets nothing).

- Evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exhibit</th>
<th>Summary of Exhibit</th>
<th>Potential Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit A</td>
<td>Past attempt by Plankton to steal formula</td>
<td>Krabs direct; Plankton direct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit B</td>
<td>same</td>
<td>Krabs direct; Plankton cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit C</td>
<td>same</td>
<td>Krabs direct; Plankton cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit D</td>
<td>Krabs loves money</td>
<td>Krabs cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit E</td>
<td>Krabs intimidating</td>
<td>Krabs cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit F</td>
<td>Krabs intimidating</td>
<td>Krabs cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit G</td>
<td>Spongebob intimidating</td>
<td>Spongebob cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit H</td>
<td>fingerprint</td>
<td>Patrick direct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit I</td>
<td>Patrick and Spongebob friends</td>
<td>Patrick cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit J</td>
<td>Patrick is a moron</td>
<td>Patrick cross</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of potential argument points:

KRABS:

Direct:
- long history of attempts by Plankton to steal
- Krabby Patty very successful; worth a lot
- Plankton’s restaurant not doing well
- no one else has ever tried to steal except Plankton
  - can use Exhibits A, B, C

Cross:
- Krabs’ love for money is well known
- this lawsuit is trumped up to get money or use money to suggest should have had better security
- Krabs has history of tormenting Plankton
- if Plankton ever did get the formula, he’d be gloating and selling Krabby Patties, not denying it
- Krabs should not have entrusted the formula to Spongebob, who is not all that bright
  - can use Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F

SPONGEBOB:

Direct:
- entrusted with the formula; loyal employee
- found it missing
- knows Plankton wants it and tries to steal it
- it is very valuable

Cross:
- very loyal employee; would even lie for Crabs
- in fact, has intimidated and accused Plankton in the past
- just found formula missing and the empty bottle the formula was kept in – didn’t see Plankton or hear him gloating as one would expect
- no one could have snuck in with him working there
- is prone to mistaken identity and jumping to conclusions
  - can use Exhibits G, I, J

PATRICK
Direct:

- was asked to review the scene for evidence
- received a degree in crime solving
- lifted a fingerprint from the bottle
- went to the Chum Bucket and found the same fingerprint there
- *use Exhibit H*

Cross:

- not qualified: degree was off a cereal box
- is generally a moron
- Plankton has touched the bottle before, so does not prove that he did it this time
- in fact, Plankton has no fingers
- *can use Exhibit I, J*

PLANKTON

Direct:

- is a business owner that sells his own food
- yes, in the past, has attempted to steal the formula
- but is proud and boastful when he's done so
- was at home reading the night of the event
- has no idea where formula is kept (it's always moved)
- no fingers and besides has touched the bottle before
- Krabs delights in tormenting Plankton (stepping on him, humiliating him); this is just a new way to try and get at Plankton. It obviously can't be about money – even Krabs admits Chum Bucket is a failure
- *can use Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F*

Cross:

- you are a failure as a businessman
- you hate Krabs and would do anything to bring him down
- if persecuted in the past, because you deserved it
- no evidence to support his alibi
- can't explain how same fingerprint both on bottle and at Chum Bucket
- *can use Exhibits A, B, C*