



Moot Court

SSC2024: International Law

Students participate in a moot court concerning an international dispute. First, each student individually writes a memorandum of pleading on the defence of the party the student is representing. Subsequently, students representing the same party convene and draft a joint memorandum of pleading and determine their strategy. Students introduce pleadings, parties' arguments are discussed, and each team presents a concluding statement.

Activity type

A group activity that includes an individual preparation component.

Activity duration/study load

One 2-hour session/research and writing an individual paper (about 6 hours)/discussion with students who defend the same party and determine the strategy (about 2 hours).

Intended learning outcomes

- students learn to offer solutions for problems and needs that present themselves in a continually changing (world) society;
- students learn legal skills, specifically doing research and writing a memorandum of pleading orally defending their party, and responding to questions from other parties, including the 'judges'.

GCEd elements

Moral/ethical reasoning, conflict resolution, integrity, respect, perspective-taking, understanding of social justice, empathy, active listening, complex problem solving.

Teacher preparation

The tutor will need to describe in detail a realistic case that the students will then use as the basis of their arguments. The case must have various parties that the students can represent.

Student preparation

Students will need to write an individual legal paper in the context of the case covered. Students should keep in mind that they defend the position of one of the parties in a conflict so they subjectively look at the law. They will focus on those arguments that can be used to their party's advantage and leave out others that are not favourable to their party's position. Because of this, their paper is more like a memorandum of pleading than a legal paper objectively discussing legal theory.

Flow

1. Students will be divided into different groups, each group representing one party.
2. Each student will write an individual submission based on applying the theory that has been learned in the preceding weeks to the concrete case.
3. Students representing the same party will convene and draft a joint memorandum of pleading.
4. Students will elect one or more students from their midst to act as legal counsel.
5. In the first round of the moot court, the various memoranda of pleadings will be introduced by the counsels for each party in the form of a presentation of maximum 10 minutes.
6. In the second round, there is an opportunity for discussing the other parties' arguments. All students representing the same party will take part in this debate.
7. In the third and final round, one member of each team will present a concluding statement of the party they represent.

Assessment

This exercise is part of the mid-term exam, which is worth 40% of the final grade.