JUDGE AND JURY ACTIVITY GUIDE

Set up the classroom to be like a court room. Assign a specific student to be each of the following players:

Judge Oversees the court, keeps order, follows procedures

established by the class.

Defense Attorney Defends the person being charged with the crime.

Tries to convince the jury of the client's innocence, or lighten the sentence by justifying the client's actions.

Resource: 6-3

Defendant Is the person being charged with the crime. Must

answer questions asked by either attorney and/or the

judge.

Prosecuting Attorney Presents evidence against the defendant and tries to

prove his/her guilt.

Plaintiff Is the person who is accusing the defendant of the

crime; the victim. This may be a person or a repre-

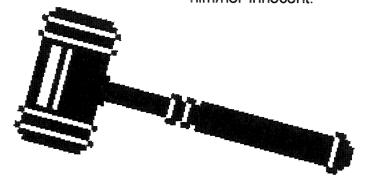
sentative of the state or federal government.

The remainder of the class members are the:

Jury Listens to both sides of the argument and decides if

the defendant is guilty or innocent. They can then decide on a fair punishment if they find the defendant guilty, or they can acquit the defendant if they find

him/her innocent.



Resource: 6-3

JUDGE AND JURY SAMPLE COURT CASE

Any City, U.S.A.

A family held a birthday party for their one-year-old child. During the party clean-up, the parents noticed the child was choking and turning blue. They tried to administer the Heimlich maneuver to the child, but were not successful because it was a balloon that was lodged in the child's throat. Emergency workers rushed the child to the hospital, but by the time the balloon was removed and the child stabilized, severe brain damage had resulted. In fact, there was no sign of brain activity at all. The baby was put on life support systems to keep his heart and lungs working.

For the next week the parents stayed with the baby around the clock, hoping for signs of improvement. But none came. So they asked the doctors to turn off the life support systems and let their child die, but they were told that the hospital had regulations that would not allow them to be turned off. After several attempts to get the hospital to comply with their wishes, the parents became distraught.

One afternoon the father came to the hospital, went into the child's room, pulled out a gun, and demanded that everyone leave the room. He then picked up his child, held him in his lap, and turned off the life support systems. Within a few minutes the child died.

The father then put down the gun, allowed the hospital security to enter the room, take his gun, and arrest him. He was charged with manslaughter in the death of his son.