



STATE BAR OF NEVADA

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

GOLDBLOCKS – THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY

Thank you for participating in the YLS's presentation of *Goldilocks – The Trial of the Century*. The purpose of the program is to give fourth graders an introduction to our legal system. We ask that you please follow the guidelines listed below and most of all, have fun.

1. Contact the fourth grade teacher to whom you have been assigned to set the date and time for your presentation. The entire program should take approximately one hour. You will need to make sure that the classroom has a television and VCR available for your use. In addition, you should inquire as to how many children are in the class so you can bring one copy of the "Instructions" for each child.
2. If at all possible, try to watch the video tape prior to giving your presentation. Your presentation will be most effective if you are able to stop the tape after each segment (introduction, prosecution opening argument, defense opening argument, etc..) and redirect the childrens' attention to what they have just seen. The crimes with which Goldilocks has been charged contain many complex elements (such as the concept of "intent") and discussing the main point of each segment is helpful.
3. When you enter the classroom, spend the first 1-2 minutes explaining to the children what it is like to be an attorney and briefly introduce the program. Inform the children that at the end of the program, they will have the responsibility of determining Goldilocks' guilt or innocence.
4. Start the video tape, making sure to stop after each segment to discuss the main point and field any questions. If you are running short on time, you may want to fast forward through the testimony of the weatherman as an expert witness (which focuses on an issue that is not essential to the deliberations) and the testimony of Baby Bear (which basically reiterates the testimony of Papa Bear and Momma Bear).
5. Prior to the closing arguments, you may want to discuss with the children the importance of this part of a trial and ask them if they have already made their decisions regarding Goldilocks' guilt or innocence. Be sure to tell them that these final arguments are intended to be persuasive and may actually change their minds.
6. At the end of the tape, hand out the "Instructions" to the children. You should read each question aloud slowly, allowing the appropriate amount of time for the children to answer each question. While you are reading and explaining each question, the teacher should be drawing three separate columns on the board (one for each count with which Goldilocks has been charged) with two rows under each heading - one for the count of "guilty" votes and the other for the count of "not



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guilty” votes. After the children have had enough time to answer all of the questions, ask for a show of hands to see how many of them found Goldilocks guilty or not guilty on each count, with the teacher recording the results on the board. It is important to point out that Goldilocks will not be found universally “guilty” or “not guilty”, but rather she will be found “guilty” or “not guilty” of three separate crimes.

7. Spend your final minutes with the children explaining the process and answering any questions they may have.
8. Ask the teacher to fill out the attached survey and return it to the State Bar of Nevada, Young Lawyers Section.

Thank you for your time in presenting this program.