Bartleby on Trial
Trial of a Character

The character Bartleby, from “Bartleby the Scrivener” by Herman Melville, is on trial for trespassing, for being a “drop-out,” for refusing to work, and for loitering. Is he guilty or innocent?

Students form three teams: defense, prosecution, and jury.

Defense and Prosecution teams gather evidence for their case, from the story and from research into the laws of the time. They present their case and have two opportunities for rebuttal.

Each team submits a written outline of their arguments, quotations from the story, and research. They also submit a bibliography using MLA Style of Citation.

Jury team determines whether the Prosecution or the Defense presented the most convincing evidence at the trial, and presents to the class two ways in which they arrived at that conclusion.

This task assesses the following learning outcomes:

1-Communication: listening, speaking, reading, and writing;

4-Information literacy: locating, evaluating, and applying information.

(Continued on next page)
Criteria for assessment:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>(1 point)</th>
<th>(2 points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State a min. of 3 main arguments clearly</td>
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<td>Make eye contact with audience</td>
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<td>Provide adequate support from story read (3 or more quotes)</td>
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<td>Provide relevant support from story</td>
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<td>Provide evidence of research (3 or more sources cited)</td>
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<td>Provide relevant evidence from research</td>
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1 point = Poor
2 points = Acceptable
3 points = Good
4 points = Excellent

19-24 points = A
13-18 points = B
7-12 points = C
1-6 points = D
0 = F