

The Task  
January 1, 2007

You have just finished reading *The Outsiders*. In the story, three young men experience horrible deaths. Throughout our reading of the novel, we have discussed the ways in which characters “cross the line” and behave in negative ways that result in misunderstandings, fights, and deaths.

What if, however, characters thought first and then acted? What if, after the death of Bob, Johnny and Ponyboy turned themselves into the police? What would Johnny’s trial have been like?

Your task will be to develop a trial for Johnny. Imagine that Johnny has been accused of murder in the first degree. In order for Johnny to be convicted, it must be proven that the murder was premeditated. Johnny is pleading Not Guilty by reason of self defense. In order for the trial to take place, you will need to learn about the justice system. You will also need to research information to develop a case for or against Johnny. You will have computers available to you, as well as links to websites that will help you.

Your research, your questioning of witnesses, and your ability to develop a case before a jury of twelve of your peers will determine Johnny’s fate.