

The Trial Process Overview – Sample Answers

Steps in a Trial	
Directions: For each trial step, summarize the section in your own words and using complete sentences.	
1. Selection of a Jury	Jurors are selected for a trial by a process called voir dire. A juror's job is to listen to the evidence and determine the facts of the case.
2. Opening Statements	During opening statements, each lawyer will tell the jury the facts about the case. In a trial there are two sides, the plaintiff/prosecutor and the defendant. The plaintiff /prosecutor must prove that the defendant has committed a crime or is guilty of a wrongdoing.
3. Testimony of Witnesses & Evidence	The plaintiff/prosecutor's case is presented first in a trial. Each lawyer gets to question each witness. After the plaintiff/prosecutor has questioned all of their witnesses, the defendant can present their case. Sometimes, the lawyers will object a question asked by the other side. The judge will either sustain or overrule the objection.
4. Closing Arguments	During closing arguments, each lawyer summarizes the evidence and tries to persuade the jury to believe their side.
5. Jury Instructions	The judge provides directions to the jury.
6. Deliberation – Jury Discussion	The jury deliberates and reaches a verdict. The jury elects a foreperson who will oversee the discussions. When the jury has reached a verdict, the jurors sign a form and notify the bailiff.