

MOCK TRIAL

WHO KILLED EPISTEMOLOGY? IS EPISTEMOLOGY REALLY DEAD?

(ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING)

Instructions:

Hold a mock trial with your class. The trial is intended to arrive at a verdict on the charge: The defendant, W.V.O. Quine, is accused of killing epistemology.

Divide the class into two main groups, the prosecution and defence, and allocate responsibilities:

- Establishing the death of epistemology is the burden of the prosecution. The prosecution will try to show how epistemology is now just a naturalized study of learning and knowing, belonging to the field of psychology. They may draw on witnesses such as the Churchlands to present a case for cognitive science as an alternative to metaphysics, in explaining how the mind works when we know something.
- The defence may exonerate Quine from guilt (though not necessarily intent to kill) by showing that epistemology died from other causes or persons, or by establishing the well-being of epistemology (nullifying the claim to its death).
- To make their case, participants on both teams make brief testimonies showing their further research into the topic.
- Select a student to act as judge, and another to act as court recorder.
- Appoint a bailiff to keep order in the court, to back up the judge.
- Select a jury (anyone not on the defence or prosecution teams, fulfilling a court appointment) who must collectively deliberate and render a single verdict.



BLM 11.2 Continued

Evaluation criteria: Examine this rubric to understand how your participation in the mock trial will be assessed.

Category	Level 1 50-59%	Level 2 60-69%	Level 3 70-79%	Level 4 80-100%
knowledge: 5 marks	Demonstrates little understanding of relevant philosophies.	Demonstrates some understanding of relevant philosophies.	Demonstrates good understanding of relevant philosophies.	Demonstrates excellent understanding of relevant philosophies.
thinking: 5 marks	Makes few sound judgments and connections as to causes and consequences.	Makes some reasonable judgments and connections as to causes and consequences.	Makes sound judgments and connections as to causes and consequences.	Makes superb judgments and connections as to causes and consequences.
communication: 5 marks	Seldom clear spokesperson, with weak diction, projection, enunciation, eye contact, and pacing.	Usually clear spokesperson, with moderate diction, projection, enunciation, eye contact, and pacing.	Articulate spokesperson, with good diction, projection, enunciation, eye contact, and pacing.	Articulate spokesperson, with skilful diction, projection, enunciation, eye contact, and pacing.
application: 5 marks	Uses few relevant examples to illustrate case and makes little convincing attempt to play role.	Uses some relevant examples to illustrate case and makes sincere attempt to play role.	Uses suitable examples to illustrate case and stays in character for role playing.	Uses ideal examples to illustrate case and virtuously acts out role.

