

Resolution 12 - Commitment to inclusivity and protection

Mock trial is a heavily normative activity, and several power dynamics/agressions occur greatly due to its specific characteristics. These affect the following aspects, including not limited to, character choice, role decision, behavioral/verbal manner, fashion, accent, scoring/ranking, club participation, volume in discussion, and decision-making power. Certain members are forced to perpetually reconsider their style and performance, fight through prejudiced evaluation, and struggle to voice their concerns and opinions.

Nonetheless, I have also encountered immense support and empowerment from the group. Members were there to openly listen to concerns, to confront problematic sources, and to reshape the group dynamics in a way that is inclusive to everyone.

In light of this, I would love to include language to the constitution that acknowledges mock trial as a normative/marginalizing activity, and recognizes the club's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. While this may not concern the specific structure/system of the club, I do feel that the constitution, a grounding principle of our club, should express such mission in a true Haverfordian/Bi-co fashion. This is not intended to resolve the inherent problems once and for all - mock trial, for its competitive purposes, will likely continue to be stereotypical and normative. Nonetheless, I believe we as a club can work together to build an inclusive environment for ourselves, and also set an example for the overall mock trial community.