I played the role of a juror in our mock trial. There are responsibilities that come along with being the role of a juror. You must take in every little detail and fact given to you, and remember it. You’re constantly trying to remember the details given, only to sometimes the Judge say to disregard everything said by that person. Doing that job is difficult. After all this, you must go into a room with your fellow jurors and decide a verdict. This decision is extremely hard, especially if it weren’t just a “mock trial.” In a real trial, this consists of basically how someone is going to spend the rest of their life.

During our trial there was a lot of competitive vibes in the air. You could just walk in and listen for a moment and feel the eagerness between both sides. As soon as the trial began, Prosecution was to give an opening statement, Maddy Shelton walked up to the jury, and as she spoke to the jury, every single one of them were able to tell she was eager to prove Friar Lawrence guilty of his charges and wrong doings. Throughout the trial, there were many witnesses, and few were not able to answer all the questions asked. Both sides of the case called
objections, and most were overruled. Prosecution was questioning Friar Lawrence and Maddy kept asking the same question, and quickly to keep asking it, and the Defense objected for badgering. At one point of the trial, the Judge himself called for badgering towards the Prosecution side.

There were plenty of things that went well throughout the trial. It was a requirement that everyone dress professionally, and very few, if anyone, didn’t dress up. This was for both days as well. The planning everyone put into the trial really stood out. Both sides were ready to ask questions for almost every witness that was called up to the stand. Both sides, had a well planned out opening and closing statements. Especially the Prosecution side, Maddy and Abby both were able to get up to the jury and present their statements quickly and with confidence. Another thing that went extremely well was the jury. During a trial it’s up to the jury to decide a verdict, and our jury was able to reach a verdict very quickly.

Although there was a lot of things that went well, there are always a few things that could be improved. For example the judge. Our judge intervened with some opinions, and corrected the Prosecution a time or two about the story. He also, intervened and accused the Prosecution of badgering the defense’s client. At another point in time, both our judges messed up on their lines. When it was time for closing statements, they both started dismissing the jury. Another thing this could be improved is to maybe have a jury that doesn’t have any background knowledge of the case, and see how the verdict may change.

The verdict in our trial, was not guilty. This was the verdict for both involuntary manslaughter, and assisted suicide. My reaction to this was surprised. It was how I planned on voting once the case was over, but I didn’t expect everyone to agree on the same thing. As the
verdict was read the rest of the people, such as the Defense and Prosecution, you could feel the 
defeat most of the Prosecution felt. Although, not all of Prosecution thought it was a loss. 
Although we agreed on not guilty with those two charges, we voted guilty on two other charges. 
Those being: distributing medicine without a medical license, and failure to report a dead body. 
Therefore, some of Prosecution thought of it as a tie.

There is so much advice that I could give to future students that have this project. 
Although I think the most important one is to not give up based on your competition. If it seems 
as your going up against who is issued to be the “smarter kids,” then don’t give up. A lot of 
people went into the trial thinking they already knew what the outcome would be, but it ended up 
being an unanimous vote the other way. This doesn’t mean you shouldn’t expect to win just 
because your against them. You still have to work hard, and plan all your questions, opening and 
closing statements, and study over all possible objections. The more you practice, and say your 
lines with confidence, the bigger chance you have of winning.