

VERDICT

The nationwide movement for high standards has not only determined what students should learn, but also has mandated that students demonstrate what they know. Teachers who choose VERDICT will find it is a standards-based program addressing English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Theater Standards. Through the simulation of a trial where two young men are accused of causing a massive forest fire, students demonstrate their understanding of the trial procedures that protect individual liberty and of the civic responsibility to participate in the justice system. Applied Learning Standards are met when students work together as prosecutors, defense attorneys, defendants, witnesses, jurors, and newspaper reporters to present a fair trial.

NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts

Standard 3: Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features.

Standard 4: Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g. conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.

Standard 5: Student employ a wide range of strategies as they write a use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Standard 6: Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print text.

Standard 11: Students participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical members of a variety of literacy communities.

National Council for the Social Studies Standards

Standard 3. People, places, and environments

The learner can:

- Construct and use mental maps of locales, regions, and the world that demonstrate understanding of the relative location, direction, size and shape.

Standard 5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

The learner can:

- Show how groups and institutions work to meet individual needs and to promote the common good, and identify examples of where they fail to do so.

Standard 6 Power, Authority, and Governance

The learner can:

- examine persistent issues involving the rights, roles, and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare.
- analyze and explain ideas and governmental mechanisms to meet needs and wants of citizens, regulate territory, manage conflict, and establish order and security.

Standard 10 Civic Ideas & Practices

The learner can:

- examine the origins and continuing influence of key ideals of the democratic republican form of government, such as individual human dignity, liberty, justice, equality, and rule of law.
- locate, access, analyze, organize, and apply information about selected public issues—recognizing and explaining multiple points of view.
- practice forms of civic discussion and participation consistent with the ideals of citizens in a democratic republic.

California Theater Standards

Standard 2: Creative Expression

Students develop knowledge and skills in acting, directing, and script writing through their own experience and imagination as well as through their research of literature and history.

Standard 5: Connections, Relations, and Applications

Students apply what they learn in theater to learning in other subjects

California Applied Learning Standards

Standard 6. Students will understand how to apply communication skills and techniques. Students will demonstrate ability to communicate orally and in writing.

Standard 8. Students will understand the importance of teamwork. Students will work on teams to achieve project objectives.