

# Choose Your Method of Trial



## PART 1: MAKE YOUR CHOICE

Read the scenario below. Then answer the questions.

You are in a store with some friends. One of them takes an item off the shelf and puts it into your backpack without your knowing. A little while later a security guard accuses you of shoplifting. He searches your backpack and finds the item. He accuses you of breaking the law. You say that you did not break the law. The dispute must be settled in a trial of your choosing. Which type of trial do you choose and why?

### Trial Information Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of the alleged crime:

\_\_\_\_\_

Your side of the story:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Trial preference:

- Trial by ordeal     Trial by combat     Trial by oath     Trial by jury

Reasons for your choice:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PART 2: DEFEND YOUR CHOICE

Write a one- to two-page persuasive essay arguing for your choice of trial. Refer to your *Comparing Trial Systems from History* worksheet as you craft your essay.

