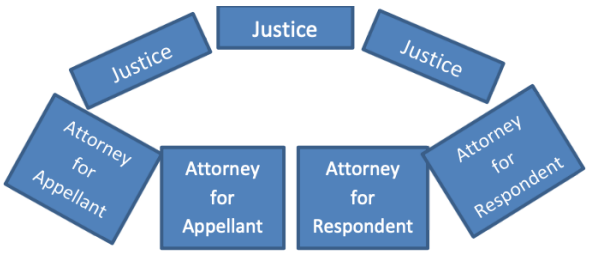
Simple Steps to Conduct a Moot Court Activity[1]

1.Divide the class into groups of seven. Each group of seven makes one court. Give each court a number so the students know which court they belong to.
2.Choose 3 people in each group to be justices.
3.Choose 2 people in each group to be attorneys for the appellant.
4.Choose 2 people in each group to be attorneys for the respondent.
5.Distribute the facts of the case and any other handouts to the students.
6.Allow time for the students to prepare. You might have all the pairs of students who are attorneys for the appellant go to an area of the room, likewise for the attorneys for the respondent, and the justices go to a separate area so that the different role groups won't hear each other preparing. Usually, 15 minutes is enough time to prepare. Give a 3-minute warning to let students know they must wrap it up.
7. Have each of the "courts" meet. It's great if the students can arrange chairs/desks:



8. Attorneys for the appellant go first.

Appellant-3 minutes including Justices' questions

Respondent-3 minutes including Justices' questions

Justices-2 minutes of any further questions

Optional: Appellant-1 minute closing

Optional: Respondent-1 minute closing

Justices: Deliberate out-loud so that the attorneys can hear. The attorneys are not allowed to say anything. Attorneys should be listening to learn what their best arguments were, etc.

[1] Source: Constitutional Rights Foundation