



Teacher Resource

Sketch Artist

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN High story as a class and record the main points of discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What is the role of a courtroom sketch artist? Who employs them?
2. What steps does Rocco take to complete a sketch of a person?
3. Do you think a sketch artist can be objective or do they bring their own bias to the job?
4. Why are cameras banned in Australian courtrooms?
5. Why do you think a sketch artist is allowed instead of cameras?
6. Do you think cameras should be allowed in courtrooms? Why or why not?
7. If video recordings were available to the public, what impact could this have on an active trial? Explain.

Activities

- **Think like a sketch artist:** Split the class into pairs. One student is the 'witness' and the other is the 'artist'. The 'witness' secretly chooses an emotion (e.g., suspicion) and holds the expression. The 'artist' has 5 minutes to sketch the 'witness' using paper and a pencil. The goal is to capture the exact emotion of the 'witness', not just their face. The 'artist' must then guess the emotion of the 'witness' before revealing their final sketch to see if they are correct.
- **Class debate:** 'Cameras should be allowed in courtrooms.' Organise a class debate with one side being for this statement, and the other against it. Use BTN High's [School Debating](#) video resource on how to hold a debate.
- **Courtroom etiquette:** Research Australian courtroom etiquette, then using the information you have gathered, practice these rules during a classroom mock trial.
- **Essay – the legacy of OJ Simpson:** Research the trial of OJ Simpson in the US. Write an essay about the impact it had on court reporting in the US and how the media impacted the trial.

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about Australia's court system, including the role of a sketch artist during cases and trials.

CURRICULUM

[Civics and Citizenship – Year 9](#)
[Digital Technologies - Years 7 and 8](#)

Examples:

[Civics and Citizenship – Year 9 \(v9.0\)](#)

[Digital Technologies – Years 7 and 8 \(v9.0\)](#)