A Massacre in Boston ~ Trial Simulation

The Situiation: You have been selected to serve on the jury in the murder trials of Captain Thomas Preston and the eight British soldiers. As a valuable member of the jury, you must listen carefully to facts vs. claims or propaganda; to hearsay vs. eyewitness accounts.

ACTIVITY: Learn It

1. In your jury group, review the printed materials available to you.
- ☐ Boston Massacre Art DBQ

- ☐ John Adams and the Boston Massacre Trials

- ☐ Multiple Perspectives: Primary Source Activity … 4 Sources
    - ☐ You will complete this in Notability and submit your completed work via email.

2. Elect a Foreperson of your jury. They will be the jury discussion leader, ask questions on on behalf of the jury, hold and fill out the verdict sheet.

3. Review the Jury Deliberation Sheet (on the back of this page) so you know what you will have to decide together.

4. Watch the Boston Massacre Trial Video (Whole Class)
- ☐ Independently complete the Boston Massacre Trial Notes as you view.
- ☐ Add additional Claims or Evidence from printed materials.

ACTIVITY: Decide It

5. Hold your jury deliberations focusing on the instructions and choices on the Jury Deliberation Sheet.

Jury Deliberation Sheet

Each jury member should deliberate over the guilt or innocence of Captain Thomas Preston and the soldiers and then vote on the possible verdicts. A unanimous verdict is required for these cases to be decided.

Captain Thomas Preston is accused of the crime of murder; 5 counts. Possible verdicts:

1. Innocent of both murder and manslaughter
2. Guilty of murder
3. Guilty of manslaughter

The eight soldiers are accused of the crime of murder; 5 counts. Possible verdicts:

4. All innocent of both murder and manslaughter
5. One or more guilty of murder; others innocent
6. One of more guilty of manslaughter; others innocent
7. One or more guilty of murder; one or more guilty of manslaughter; others innocent

3. Each jury should then report and be prepared to defend its verdict.