



*Federal Courts' National Educational Outreach that Involves, Informs, Inspires, and Ignites*

## FEDERAL COURTS: STEPS IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL

*This is a teaching tool that simplifies key concepts for students. Find more information in the educational resources section of [uscourts.gov](https://uscourts.gov)*

  
*Simplified*



### SIXTH AMENDMENT

**RIGHT TO A SPEEDY AND PUBLIC TRIAL  
BY A JURY OF YOUR PEERS**

#### *When the Defendant Pleads Guilty*

- Defendant Charged in Court
- Enters Guilty Plea
- Pre-sentence Activities
- Sentencing

#### *When the Defendant Pleads Not Guilty*

- Enters Not Guilty Plea
- Chooses Jury Trial or Bench (Judge) Trial
- Prosecution Opening Statement
- Defense Opening Statement
- Both Sides: Direct & Cross Examination of Witnesses
- Prosecution Closing Arguments
- Defense Closing Arguments
- Prosecution Rebuttal
- Jury Deliberations
- Jury Verdict
- Pre-sentence Activities
- Sentencing

**Developed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts**

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