Federal Courts

Steps in a Criminal Trial

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
- Prosecution Opening Statement
- Choose Jury Trial or Bench Trial
- Defense Opening Statement
- Direct & Cross Examination of Witnesses
- Prosecution Closing Arguments
- Defense Closing Arguments
- Prosecution Rebuttal
- Jury Deliberations
- Jury Verdict
- Pre-Sentence Activities
- Sentencing

This is a teaching tool that simplifies key points for students. Find detailed information at <scourt.gov> Educational Resources

Source: <scourt.gov> Educational Resources