

Media is the representation of the legal system in the minds of the public. However, the media's representation is not very accurate and sometimes, misrepresents our legal system. The following is some of the differences between the media's portrayal of the courtroom and the actual courtroom.

#	Media/Entertainment	Reality
1	<p>Dramatic</p> <p><u>Clip from Cousin Vinny:</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9AqbDtSFNU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9AqbDtSFNU</a></p> <p><u>Clip from How To Get Away With Murder:</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VMusjFEtZ8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VMusjFEtZ8</a></p> <p><u>Clip from Liar Liar:</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=145&amp;v=1jQP0Y2T2OQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=145&amp;v=1jQP0Y2T2OQ</a></p>	<p>Not dramatic, might come off as dull and boring compared to the media's portrayal</p>
2	<p>Sometimes how lawyers just use new evidence in the middle of a trial</p> <p><u>Clip from How To Get Away From Murder:</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUx9TpcMFKc&amp;pbjreload=10">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUx9TpcMFKc&amp;pbjreload=10</a></p>	<p>In reality, lawyers usually can't use the evidence without submitting it before hand and file motion (?). New crucial evidence might declare a mistrial.</p>
3	<p>Media make it seems as if people most likely go to court or that court is like the first step</p> <p><u>Clip from Simpson:</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&amp;v=E2dmfnSarDI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&amp;v=E2dmfnSarDI</a></p>	<p>But in reality, there are steps taken to prevent going to trial such as mediation or negotiation/people don't want to go to trial if anything. A good amount of the time, people try to prevent going to court because it saves everyone time and it will be really expensive to go to trial when the issue can be resolved without a trial. For criminal cases, most cases are settled with a plea bargain.</p> <p><u>Clip from Wedding Crashers (ex of meditation):</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_co">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_co</a></p>

		<a href="#">ntinue=100&amp;v=h_IIyeLhmF0</a>
4	That trial is fast (You usually see like 10 minutes of a trial or as fast as an episode of a show)	Trial's length may vary but it can be long (way longer than how media portray it)
5	That people go to trial as soon as possible (in like a few days)/media doesn't really focus on what happens before trial  <u>Clip from Simpson:</u> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&amp;v=E2dmfnSarDI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&amp;v=E2dmfnSarDI</a>	Trial are usually months away (take time to prepare for trial and you have all these pretrial motions and voir dire)
6	There's almost always people sitting in on the trial/there's reporters and all  <u>Clip from How To Get Away From Murder:</u> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZN0M4v5xNc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZN0M4v5xNc</a>	Some trials are not open to the public/sometimes people don't go to some trials
7	Defendant is always there in the trial  <u>Any clips of the defendant in court will do</u>	Sometimes defendant might not hear the trial if they waive the right to or is advised by their lawyer
8	Jury is usually pretty diverse  <u>Clip from Airplane II:</u> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=58&amp;v=x9f3V-WCJtA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=58&amp;v=x9f3V-WCJtA</a>	Sometimes, jury can be very not diverse (all the same ethnicity, gender, etc.) and that might be because of the setting  <u>Clip from 12 Angry Men (jury is not diverse but also it's a different time era):</u> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzhH2hlNSfs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzhH2hlNSfs</a>
9	Lawyers seem to know what they're doing (they're like the "ideal" lawyer; knows how to best represent their client)  <u>Clip from How To Get Away From Murder:</u>	Sometimes there's lawyers who just began and has no court experience or there's lawyers who is unkempt or who isn't like confident and all  <u>Clip from My Cousin Vinny:</u>

	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VMusjFEtZ8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VMusjFEtZ8</a></p> <p>Clip from Liar Liar:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=145&amp;v=1jQP0Y2T2OQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=145&amp;v=1jQP0Y2T2OQ</a></p> <p>Clip from How To Get Away From Murder:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUx9TpcMFKc&amp;pbjreload=10">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUx9TpcMFKc&amp;pbjreload=10</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSw9_bsTzkU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSw9_bsTzkU</a></p> <p>Clip from Ghostbusters 2:  <a href="https://nerdist.com/the-funniest-silliest-courtroom-scenes-from-film-and-television/">https://nerdist.com/the-funniest-silliest-courtroom-scenes-from-film-and-television/</a></p> <p>Clip from Big Daddy (ex of a bad lawyer who doesn't go over the examination with their witness beforehand):  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=117&amp;v=oEuljvGB-YU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=117&amp;v=oEuljvGB-YU</a></p>
10	<p>Media usually doesn't show the opening argument and jump straight into direct and cross examination (because they only want to show the parts of a trial that is the most entertaining for the audience)</p> <p>Clip from Simpson:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&amp;v=E2dmfnSarDI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&amp;v=E2dmfnSarDI</a></p>	<p>In reality, trials always start with opening argument which then lead to cross and direct examination. Trials go in order.</p> <p>Clip from the Bee movie (ex of opening statement):  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQks_Mvb4NA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQks_Mvb4NA</a></p> <p>Clip from How to Get Away From Murder:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzJQ2rQxfj4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzJQ2rQxfj4</a></p>
11	<p>Media almost never shows people self-representing in court</p>	<p>A lot of people represent themselves in court, there are people who do for various reasons but it's not the best idea</p> <p>Clip from Bananas (the film):  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=346&amp;v=8a3mk9sp0oE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=346&amp;v=8a3mk9sp0oE</a></p> <p>Law Abiding Citizen:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uoXF6nd45w&amp;feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uoXF6nd45w&amp;feature=youtu.be</a></p>
12	<p>Mothers always get child custody; it is almost impossible for the fathers to get</p>	<p>Depending on case to case basis, mothers or fathers can get child custody. It's</p>

	<p>child custody</p> <p><u>Clip from Kramer vs. Kramer:</u>  <a href="https://youtu.be/re0xt6hDdqE">https://youtu.be/re0xt6hDdqE</a></p>	<p>usually the mothers who get it, but depending on the best interest of the child and also how old the child is (for the tender year doctrine, it will favor toward the mother if the child is still very young)</p>
13	<p>Surprise witness are allowed most, if not all of the time</p> <p><u>Clip from My Cousin Vinny:</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=55&amp;v=3nGQLOF1b6I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=55&amp;v=3nGQLOF1b6I</a></p>	<p>Depending on the situation, judge may declare a mistrial or the judge may order a recess for the opposing side to interview the surprise witness, etc.</p>
14	<p>Always show this one court (the courtroom always look the same).</p>	<p>In reality, there is different types of court i.e. appeals court, supreme court. The different types of court may look different depending on what kind of courtroom it is. Different court serve different purposes; depending on the type of law or what stage the case is in.</p>
15	<p>On trial, some witnesses will confess on stand by accident</p> <p><u>Clip from How To Get Away From Murder:</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VMusjFEtZ8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VMusjFEtZ8</a></p>	<p>In real life, it is rarely for a witness to confess on stand. Since the parties have gone so far (all the way to trial), they are pretty much strong in their stance so they will not give up.</p>
16	<p>There is only one type of lawyer: lawyers who go to trial all the time. (courtroom lawyer?)</p>	<p>There are many types of lawyer. Some lawyers go to trial all the time, some do not go to trial at all, some prepares paperwork for other lawyers, etc.</p>
17	<p>Media is focused on criminal law mostly.</p>	<p>There are different type of law other than criminal such as civil, torts, constitutional, etc.</p>
18	<p>The judges are always looking at what is happening in the trial/courtroom.</p> <p><u>Clip from Inherit the Wind:</u>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=113&amp;v=UZWAtY2vShM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=113&amp;v=UZWAtY2vShM</a></p>	<p>In fact, the judge is multitasking and not always just sitting there and just observing, but they can also be on their computer or take notes.</p>

Bonus Clips:

- Clip from Ted 2 (Shows how normal people are often confused with how the courtroom works with exposure only to the media):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=18&v=LlDGh4t9OiM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=18&v=LlDGh4t9OiM)

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