

Mock Trial Score Sheet Instructions

1. Students are judged upon their knowledge of procedure, law and facts of the case as well as the overall quality of their presentation. They are NOT judged on how the merits of the case would be decided if it were a real life trial.
2. All categories must be judged. Please be sure to place a score in **each** numbered space on the score sheet. Please review the performance score sheet and judging criteria carefully.
3. For each performance category, please rate each individual on a scale of **4-10**. A 4 or 5 should be given for a fair performance, meaning the performance was ok or adequate. A 6 or 7 should be given for a good performance, meaning the performance was more than adequate, satisfactory, or of fine-quality. An 8 or 9 should be given for an excellent performance, meaning the performance was superior, well-above average, or extraordinary, or the student went well above and beyond the necessary preparation. A 10 should be given to the students that give an outstanding performance, meaning that the student's performance was far superior to a typical presentation, amazing and bordering on the level of a well-polished, seasoned attorney.
4. On the score sheet, **P** is for prosecution/plaintiff and **D** is for defense.
5. Some factors that may be considered are the student's knowledge, ability to think on his/her feet, over-use of notes or amount of reading directly from his/her paper, smoothness of delivery, ability to vary from a script when necessary and ability to stay in character.
6. Rule violations that are brought to the judges' attention in a timely and appropriate manner should be considered in scoring.
7. Opening statements are scored in box # 1 for prosecution/plaintiff and #2 for defense. In the opening statement, student attorneys should be judged on how well they presented a clear description of their theory of the case, setting forth what evidence they expect to show and why the court should find in their favor.
8. The prosecution/plaintiff attorneys' direct examinations of their witnesses are scored in boxes 3, 6 and 9. The defense attorneys' direct examinations of their witnesses are scored in boxes 13, 16 and 19. Because these go in order of the presentation of witnesses, follow along the score sheet throughout the case. An attorney on direct examination should be scored on how well he/she used questions that brought out key information for his/her side of the case, exhibited a clear understanding of trial procedures and responded to objections appropriately. Other factors to consider in scoring a direct examination are the attorney's ability to think on his/her feet in response to objections, to go with the flow of the objections and to vary from the script when necessary. The score for the attorney doing the direct examination of a witness should also be affected by his/her ability to make and argue appropriate objections for his/her witness during cross.
9. The defense attorneys' cross examinations of the prosecution/plaintiff witnesses are scored in boxes 4, 7 and 10. The prosecution/plaintiff attorneys' cross examinations of the defense witnesses are scored in boxes 12, 15 and 18. These also go in order of the presentation of witnesses so be sure to follow along the score sheet throughout the case. An attorney on cross examination should be scored on how well he/she effectively impeached the witness or discredited the testimony, obtained favorable testimony although the witness was called by the other side, controlled the witness by asking good leading questions, demanding a

- “yes” or “no” answer where appropriate, exhibited a clear understanding of trial procedures and argued objections appropriately. Other factors to consider in scoring a cross examination are the attorney’s ability to think on his/her feet in response to a hostile witness’ answers, to go with the flow of the testimony and to vary from the script when necessary, following up on opportunities presented by the witness. The score for the attorney doing the cross examination of a witness should also be affected by his/her ability to make and argue appropriate objections during the direct of that witness and to respond appropriately and effectively to objections during his/her cross examination.
10. The prosecution/plaintiff witnesses are scored in boxes 5, 8 and 11. The defense witnesses are scored in boxes 14, 17 and 20. These also go in order of the presentation of witnesses so be sure to follow along the score sheet throughout the case. A witness should be scored on how well he/she is prepared for answering questions posed under direct examination, is able to respond to questions posed under cross examination, is able to think on his/her feet, is able to vary from the script when necessary and is able to stay in character. Other factors to consider are how believable he/she is in his/her character, how convincing his/her testimony is, the demeanor in which he/she responds to the cross-examining attorney, his/her knowledge of the facts and ability to extend the portrayal of his/her character beyond the factual answers.
 11. The closing arguments are scored in box 21 for the prosecution/plaintiff and 22 for the defense. **Please remember that this is backwards. In mock trial, the defense closing arguments are first!** In the closing arguments, the attorneys should be scored on how well they effectively showed the reasons for their side prevailing, pointed out the flaws in the other side’s case, exhibited a clear understanding of the facts and the law and effectively responded to unexpected testimony or rulings. Other factors to consider in scoring closing arguments are the student’s knowledge, ability to think on his/her feet, over-use of notes or amount of reading directly from his/her paper, and smoothness of delivery. The outstanding attorney will have been able to pick up on and use in his/her argument testimony that occurred during the trial that could not have been known in advance preparation for the closing.
 12. Boxes 23 and 24 are reserved for an overall team score. These boxes must also be scored. The overall team score is based on whether team members as a whole were courteous, followed the rules, observed general courtroom decorum and spoke clearly and distinctly. How well the team worked together, whether they had a coherent theory of the case and a clear understanding of the facts, issues and law should also be considered in the score.
 13. In boxes 25 and 26 please carefully total the scores for the prosecution/plaintiff column and the defense column. Your scores and math will be double-checked with a calculator before you leave.
 14. In the event of a tie, and **ONLY** in the event of tie, you need to award a tiebreaker point based on overall impression to determine the winner of the competition.
 15. Please do not forget to fill in the spaces on the bottom of the score sheet with the name of the winning school, the date and location of the trial.
 16. Thank you for your careful attention. Your scores are very important to the students and, yes, they will see them!!