

# Mock Trial Training

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## Mock Trial Judging and Scoring

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- ✓ Overall Team Performance
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- ✓ What Presiding Judges and Scoring Judges Look For



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## Judges

- Each trial round has a presiding judge.
- Always three scoring judges.
- All judges receive case materials prior to the competition.



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## Scoring Process

- Scores all roles based on a 10 point scale.
  - Individual performance scores
  - Overall team assessment scores
- Each judge scores independently.
- Scores/results are not announced at the end of the competition.

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## Scoring Matrix (1-6 points)

### 1 – 2 Not Effective

Unsure of self, illogical, uninformed, not prepared, speaks incoherently, definitely ineffective in communication, Reads directly from notes. Improper use of objections.

### 3 – 4 Fair

Minimally informed and prepared. Performance is passable, but lacks depth in terms of knowledge of tasks and materials. Communication lacks clarity and conviction. Depends on notes. Poor use of objections.

### 5 – 6 Good

Good, solid, but less than spectacular performance. Can perform outside the script but with less confidence than when using script. Logic and organization are adequate, but not outstanding. Grasps major aspects of case, but does not convey mastery of it. Communications are clear and understandable, but could be stronger in fluency and persuasiveness. Occasionally uses notes. Understands and uses correct objections.

***All underlined items are new for the 2011/2012 Mock Trial competition year.***

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## Scoring Matrix (7-10 points)

### 7 – 8 Excellent

Fluent, persuasive, clear and understandable. Organizes materials and thoughts well and exhibits master of case and materials. Is not note-dependent. Uses appropriate and timely objections as well as thought out response to objections and offers proper support.

### 9 – 10 Outstanding

Superior qualities listed for 7-8 points performance. Additionally, thinks well on feet, is logical, keeps poise under stress. Can sort essential from nonessential and use time effectively to accomplish major objectives. Demonstrates ability to utilize all resources in order to emphasize vital points of trial. Is not note-dependent. Exhibits mastery of objections and appropriate responses and support.

*All underlined items are new for the 2011/2012 Mock Trial competition year.*

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## Overall Team Performance (worth 10 points)

*Takes into account the following parameters:*  
civility/incivility, abuse/excessive objections,  
scripting, delay tactics, usage of exhibits,  
 thematic presentation, legal arguments woven in the entire presentation

*All underlined items are new for the 2011/2012 Mock Trial competition year.*

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## Scoresheet (sample)

PRACTICE SCORESHEET		2011 HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL	
Plaintiff Witnesses Address Name: _____ Panel of Decisions Sgt. Patricia Hill _____ Justice Department John Rogers, P.D. _____ Police/Parkland District		Defense Witnesses Sgt. Douglas Bellamy _____ Defendant John Adams _____ Judge Street Logan M. Moore _____ Police Inspector at BGLCA	
	Plaintiff	Defense	Judicial Notes
Opening Statements			
Pl 1st Witness			
Pl 2nd Witness			
Pl 3rd Witness			
Pl 4th Witness			
Pl 5th Witness			
Pl 6th Witness			
Pl 7th Witness			
Pl 8th Witness			
Pl 9th Witness			
Pl 10th Witness			
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Pl 12th Witness			
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Pl 320th Witness			
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Pl 326th Witness			
Pl 327th Witness			

## Scoring Judges

- Look for specific things from the students performing as witnesses and attorneys.
- Use scoring matrix to score students.
- Listen to Barbie Seymour as she gives suggestions.



**Video Example to Follow**

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## Scoring Judges



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## Presiding Judges

- Listen to the Late Hon. Marc Westbrook as he gives suggestions on what presiding judges are looking for from the students.



**Video Example to Follow**

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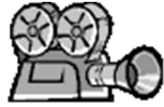
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## Presiding Judges



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## *Questions?*

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