

Mock Trial

Scoresheet Guidelines / Scoring Matrix

Opening Statement: Presents general outline of the party's case without being argumentative.

Direct Examination: Attorney uses properly phrased questions; uses proper courtroom procedure; demonstrates understanding of crucial facts, issues, and law.

Cross Examination: Attorney is effective on cross; properly impeached witness, if appropriate; asks appropriate questions.

Witness Performance: Witness is credible, demonstrates understanding of facts, sounds spontaneous, not memorized; poised and follows courtroom decorum.

Closing Argument: Convincingly addresses important issues that are relevant to the facts in the law that were brought out during the trial.

Overall Performance: Takes into account the following parameters: team sportsmanship/thematic presentation/team coordination/legal arguments woven in the entire presentation.

Scoring Guide:		Do not award fractional points or a range.
1-2	Not Effective	Unsure, illogical, uninformed, speaks incoherently. Reads directly from notes.
3-4	Fair	Minimally informed and prepared. Communication lacks clarity and conviction. Depends on notes.
5-6	Good	Good, solid performance. Grasps major aspects of case, but does not convey mastery of it. Basic understanding of evidence. Occasionally uses notes.
7-8	Excellent	Fluent, persuasive, clear, & understandable. Organizes materials and thoughts well. Better than average handling of evidence. <u>Is not note-dependent.</u>
9-10	Outstanding	Superior grasp of case. Thinks well on feet, is logical, and keeps poised under duress. Demonstrates the unique ability to utilize all resources in order to emphasize vital points of trial. Effective use of time. Effective use of evidentiary materials; correct objections. <u>Is not note-dependent.</u>