



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

JUDGE SCORE SHEET/BALLOT

P = PLAINTIFF/PROSECUTION: _____
(TEAM LETTER)

D = DEFENSE: _____
(TEAM LETTER)

DATE: _____

ROUND: (CIRCLE ONE) 1 2 3 4 SF F

On a scale of 1 to 10 (below), rate the 'P' and 'D' following the outlined "Criteria for Scoring" info sheet in the judge packet.
ALL white blanks should be filled, but DO NOT award fractional or zero points.
(Please use ball point pen and adequate pressure to mark all NCR copies.)

Not Effective	Fair	Good	Excellent	Outstanding
1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10

SCORE SHEET/BALLOT		P	D
<u>OPENING STATEMENT</u>		→	→
PLAINTIFF/PROSECUTION	DIRECT	→	
FIRST WITNESS:			CROSS →
	Witness Presentation	→	
PLAINTIFF/PROSECUTION	DIRECT	→	
SECOND WITNESS:			CROSS →
	Witness Presentation	→	
PLAINTIFF/PROSECUTION	DIRECT	→	
THIRD WITNESS:			CROSS →
	Witness Presentation	→	
DEFENSE			DIRECT →
FIRST WITNESS:	CROSS	→	
			Witness Presentation →
DEFENSE			DIRECT →
SECOND WITNESS:	CROSS	→	
			Witness Presentation →
DEFENSE			DIRECT →
THIRD WITNESS:	CROSS	→	
			Witness Presentation →
<u>CLOSING ARGUMENT</u>		→	→
OVERALL PENALTY POINTS (if applicable, only 1-5 pts.)*		()	()
TOTAL SCORE: <i>Add scores in each column</i>		→	→

*An explanation of any penalty points **MUST** be written on the back.

Deliver ballots to headquarters before debriefing

Better Presentation: (Please write in the winner—'P' or 'D') →	
--	--

In this round, please indicate below the students in your opinion that were the most outstanding as a Witness and as an Advocate (only one per category):

Outstanding Witness

Outstanding Advocate

Judge Signature

Judge Printed Name

EXPLANATION OF THE SCORE SHEET

Judges will rate the individual presentations of team members according to their roles in the trial. Individual participants will be rated on a scale of 1-10 points utilizing the “criteria for evaluating student presentations” described below. As a result, the overall team’s performance is calculated and totaled in the *Total Score* box on the score sheet. Judges are not scoring the legal merits of the case.

Judges are asked to recognize outstanding individual performances by casting a ballot for one OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE and one OUTSTANDING WITNESS per competition round. This decision is made by each individual judge; however, discussion among the panel is permissible. When a round concludes, please indicate these students in the appropriate blanks on the score sheet.

PERFORMANCE RATING SCALE

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>PERFORMANCE</u>	<u>CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</u>
1-2	Not Effective	Unsure of self, illogical, uninformed, not prepared, is not coherent; ineffective in communication; total reliance upon notes; unsure when entering exhibits; easily distracted
3-4	Fair	Minimally informed and prepared. Performance is passable, but lacks depth in terms of knowledge of task and materials; not at ease; communications lack clarity and conviction; relies heavily on notes (if attorney); somewhat distracted
5-6	Good	Average presentation; does not exclusively rely on notes; however, is hesitant and unsure when not using notes; is adequate in logic and understanding of the materials, but does not convey mastery of same; communications are clear and understandable; average in fluency and persuasiveness
7-8	Excellent	Presentation is fluent, persuasive, logical, clear, and understandable; materials and thoughts are well organized; exhibits mastery of the case; seldom refers to notes (if attorney); is intuitive in responses and in questioning (if attorney); responds to occurrences during trial
9-10	Outstanding	Superior in qualities listed for 7-8 presentation, plus, thinks quickly and spontaneously; is logical; is poised at all times, even under pressure, sorts out essential from the nonessential, uses time effectively to accomplish major objectives; utilizes all resources to emphasize vital points of the trial

Judges may individually consider penalties for violation of the *Rules of the Competition* or the *Code of Ethical Conduct*. Penalties would reduce point awards in the appropriate performance categories above. Any penalties must be explained on the reverse or bottom of the score sheet (if applicable, only 1-5 points may be deducted).

Please add together all points in the ‘P’ and ‘D’ columns and enter into the *Total Score* boxes. The team with the higher number of total points on the score sheet shall win the judge’s ballot and shall be entered in the “Better Presentation” box on the ballot. The team winning the majority of the ballots shall win the round.

Judges are reminded to total all scores - checking totals closely - and sign the score sheet before returning the score sheet to the judge headquarters



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP CRITERIA FOR SCORING A TRIAL PRESENTATION

The following criteria should be considered during the course of a team's trial presentation. Consider "5" as average. This list is designed to serve as a guideline. All points accessed in a round are subjective.

Opening Statement

- Provided a case overview
- The theme/theory of the case was identified
- Mentioned the key witnesses
- Provided a clear and concise description of their team's side of the case
- Stated the relief requested
- Discussed the burden of proof
- Presentation was non argumentative
- Points may be deducted for use of notes, at the Scoring Judge's discretion

Direct Examinations

- Properly phrased questions
- Used proper courtroom procedure
- Handled objections appropriately and effectively and did not overuse objections
- Did not ask questions that called for an unfair extrapolation from the witness
- Demonstrated an understanding of the Modified Federal Rules of Evidence
- Handled physical evidence appropriately and effectively (Rule 4.20)

Cross Examinations

- Properly phrased questions
- Effective questioning
- Properly impeached witnesses
- Handled objections appropriately and effectively
- Did not overuse objections
- Used various techniques, as necessary, to handle a non-responsive witness
- Demonstrated an understanding of the Modified Federal Rules of Evidence
- Handled physical evidence appropriately and effectively (Rule 4.20)

Witness Performance

- Did not use notes (as is required)
- Credible portrayal of character
- Showed understanding of the facts
- Sounded spontaneous, not memorized
- Demonstrated appropriate courtroom decorum
- Avoided unnecessarily long and/or non-responsive answers on cross-examination
- Use of unfair extrapolations, for which points should be deducted

Closing Statement

- Theme/theory continued in closing argument
- Summarized the evidence
- Emphasized the supporting points of their own case and damaged the opponent's case
- Concentrated on the important, not the trivial
- Applied the applicable law
- Discussed burden of proof
- Responded to judge's questions with poise
- Overall, the closing statement was persuasive
- There should be only a minimal reliance on notes during the closing statement
- Points should be deducted if closing argument exceeds time limit

Tiebreaker

The team with the higher number of points shall win the ballot. Place a "P" or "D" in the Tiebreaker Box on the ballot to indicate which side has the higher number of points; the team winning the majority of the ballots shall win the round.