

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

TASKS OF THE TEACHER COACH

There is much to “teach” in preparing a mock trial team; however, please keep all of their tasks in proper perspective with the fact that it is the educational value of the mock trial competition that is the primary purpose of the program. Healthy competition helps to achieve this objective; however, keeping the competitive spirit at a reasonable level is one of the greatest challenges for the advisors and the team. A reality of the adversary system is that one party wins; the other party loses. Either outcome should be accepted graciously and in a mature manner by the team, the observers, and the coaches.

1. Be the liaison between district/regional/state coordinator and your team;
2. Contact an attorney to serve as an attorney-advisor to your team – schedule meetings;
3. Distribute mock trial materials to all team members and attorney-advisor;
4. Develop student understanding of rules of the competition;
5. Develop student understanding of trial procedure;
6. Develop understanding of the Federal Rules of Evidence (Mock Trial version) included in the case materials;
7. Assist team members in developing and evaluating strategies for each side of the case;
8. Assist team members in case organization and preparation;
9. Make role assignments;
10. Evaluate team members’ performance in practice sessions;
11. Accompany team to each round of competition and stay with your team during each round;
12. Assist team in arriving on time for each round of competition;
13. Keep school informed about team’s participation and advancement in competition by making announcements on P. A., in school newspaper, bulletin boards, etc.; and,
14. Invite parents, school administrators, and other interested person to attend the trials.