



YMCA Alabama Youth Judicial Mock Trial Competition Scoring Criteria

The following criteria will be used by Judges during the course of all trials. All points assessed in a Trial Round are considered subjective.

Opening Statement

- Provided a Case Overview
- Explicitly spelled out their team's argument and stated what their evidence proved.
- Mentioned key witnesses
- Discussed burden of proof
- Presentation was non-argumentative

Direct Examination

- Properly phrased questions – non-leading
- Used proper courtroom procedure
- Demonstrated understanding of facts, issues, and relevant law
- Questions asked effectively bolstered their side's case argument
- Argued objections effectively
- Did not ask questions that required an unfair extrapolation from the witness
- Demonstrated an understanding of the Abridged Federal Rules of Evidence
- Handled physical evidence effectively
- Demonstrated sportsmanship consistent with the values of the YMCA

Cross Examination

- Properly phrased questions designed to control the witness and extract information that bolsters their side's argument
- When applicable, proper impeachment of the witness
- Argued objections effectively
- Used various non-combative techniques to effectively handle non-responsive witnesses
- Demonstrated an understanding of the Abridged Federal Rules of Evidence
- Handled physical evidence effectively
- If applicable, their *Voir Dire* examination did not include questions that called for answers outside of the case material.
- Demonstrated sportsmanship consistent with the values of the YMCA

Witness Performance

- Witnesses did not use notes
- Credible portrayal of character
- Showed an understanding of the facts of the case
- Sounded spontaneous, not memorized
- Was able to effectively counter damaging questions on cross without opening themselves up to impeachment
- Poised and exhibited proper courtroom decorum
- Avoided non-responsive answers on Cross
- Did not use unfair extrapolations

Closing Statement

- Argument clearly stated
- Evidence summarized
- Emphasized evidence that supported their claim and damaged the claim of their opponent
- Avoided trivial evidence, red herrings and did not waste time on irrelevant information
- Applied applicable law
- Discussed burden of proof
- Made a persuasive argument
- Effectively responded to opponents arguments
- Presentation was non-argumentative

Team Score

- Team members demonstrated control over their side's argument throughout the course of the trial.
- Evidence of team-preparation
- Team was prompt and arrived at the courtroom in a timely fashion with plenty of time for pre-trial preparation
- Filled out and exchanged pre-trial forms in a timely fashion
- Did not make pre trial motions
- Treated the opposing team and Judge with respect, courtesy and fellowship both before, during and after the trial