



SCORING CRITERIA

This is designed to serve as a guide. All points assessed in a round are subjective.

OPENING STATEMENT

- Provided a case overview
- Identified theme/theory of the case
- Mentioned 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

Note: Points may be deducted for the use of notes.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

- Properly phrased questions—non-leading
- Used proper courtroom procedure
- Demonstrated understanding of facts, issues, and law
- Used case theme/theory appropriately/effectively during questioning
- Handled objections appropriately and effectively
- Did not overuse objections
- Did not ask questions that called for an unfair extrapolation from the witness
- Demonstrated an understanding of the Federal Rules of Evidence (Mock Trial Version)
- Handled exhibits appropriately and effectively (if applicable)
- Appropriate and effective re-direct (if applicable)

CROSS EXAMINATION

- Properly phrased questions—leading
- Effective questioning
- Properly impeached witness (if applicable)
- 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 Federal Rules of Evidence (Mock Trial Version)
- Handled exhibits appropriately and effectively (if applicable)

WITNESS PERFORMANCE

- Credible portrayal of character
- Showed understanding of the facts
- Sounded spontaneous, not memorized
- Poised and demonstrated appropriate courtroom decorum
- Cross-examination was truthful, and presented in a manner to advance case
- Avoided unnecessarily long and/or non-responsive answers on cross-examination

Note: Points shall be deducted for the use of notes and unfair extrapolations.

CLOSING ARGUMENT

- Theme/theory continued in closing argument
- Summarized the evidence
- Emphasized supporting points of their case and damaged opponent's case
- Focused on the important, not the trivial
- Applied the law
- Discussed the burden of proof
- Effective rebuttal (if applicable)
- Overall persuasive

Note: Points may be deducted for the use of notes.