



## Judicial Trial Court Evaluation

Evaluator's Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Court Room: \_\_\_\_\_

PROSECUTION: Team #: \_\_\_\_\_ Round: \_\_\_\_\_

DEFENSE: Team #: \_\_\_\_\_ Round: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

### Plaintiff

### Defense

Atty #1	Atty #2		Atty #1	Atty #2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>1. Opening Statement</b> (Using the scale of 0-5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a. Provided a case overview; identified theme/theory of the case
- b. Mentioned the key witnesses
- c. Provided clear and concise description of his or her side of the case
- d. Discussed the burden of proof; stated the relief requested; did not use notes

Atty 1	Atty2		Atty 1	Atty2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>2. Direct Examinations</b> (Using the scale of 0-5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a. Developed clear picture of how witness fit into the facts to be proven (case theme)
- b. Avoided leading questions; handled physical evidence appropriately and effectively
- c. Questions were short and to the point
- d. Handled objections appropriately and effectively and did not overuse objections
- e. Developed the direct examination through the use of conversational language

Atty 1	Atty2		Atty 1	Atty2
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>3. Cross Examinations</b> (Using the scale of 0-5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a. Asked only leading questions; questions short and to the point
- b. Attorney controlled story development, not witness
- c. Properly impeached or discredited the witness or the case via the witness
- d. Handled objections appropriately and effectively and did not overuse objections
- e. Used various techniques, as necessary, to handle a non-responsive witness
- f. Used variations in vocal tempo, volume, tone, and pitch when cross-examining

Atty 1	Atty2		Atty 1	Atty2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4. Closing Argument</b> (Using the scale of 0-5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a. Theme/theory continued in closing argument
- b. Summarized the evidence; emphasized supporting points of his or her own case
- c. Concentrated on the important, not the trivial; discussed burden of proof
- d. Overall persuasive; pointed out flaws in opponents' case; minimal reliance on notes

W1	W2	W3		W1	W2	W3
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5. Witness Performance</b> (Using the scale of 0-5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a. Credible portrayal of character; showed emotion appropriate to role
- b. Showed understanding of the facts; sounded spontaneous, not memorized
- c. Demonstrated appropriate courtroom decorum
- d. Well prepared for cross-examination; helped their team's case

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6. Team Performance</b> (Using the scale of 0-5)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- a. Team members were courteous and observed general courtroom decorum
- b. Displayed good sportsmanship to competitors, regardless of trial results
- c. Showed an understanding of courtroom procedures and evidence
- d. Spoke clearly/distinctly; appropriate use of time; appeared prepared and organized

Total Plaintiff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>TOTAL TEAM SCORE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Defense
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<b>Student Judge#</b> _____	<b>School</b> _____	<b>Performance</b> (Using the scale of 0-5)
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- a. Calling the court to order (communicating rules, swearing in witnesses)
- b. Knowledge of trial procedure; knowledge of rules of evidence
- c. Handling of objections; demeanor/professionalism; maintenance of control of courtroom
- d. Interactions with other participants; decision making abilities



**Judicial Trial Court Evaluation**

Comments Sheet

**Guidelines for (0-5) Scoring:** The following represent general guidelines evaluators should apply to each category on the score sheet. It is strongly recommended that evaluators use "3" to indicate an average performance and adjust higher or lower for stronger or weaker performances.

**0 — NO PERFORMANCE**

- Failure to perform task within assigned role

**1 — FAR BELOW AVERAGE (POOR PERFORMANCE)**

- Poor presentation
- Inadequate legal knowledge and/or understanding of role

**2 — BELOW AVERAGE (FAIR, WEAK PERFORMANCE)**

- Awkward presentation
- Poise and delivery need more work

**3 — AVERAGE (MEETS REQUIRED STANDARDS)**

- Acceptable but uninspired presentation
- Needs more spontaneity and persuasiveness

**4 — ABOVE AVERAGE (GOOD, SOLID PERFORMANCE)**

- Well organized; demonstrates thorough preparation
- Good, smooth presentation

**5 — EXCELLENT (EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE)**

- Demonstrates excellent preparation; well organized
- Portrayal both extraordinary and realistic, not overly rehearsed or memorized

**PROSECUTION TEAM # \_\_\_\_\_ ROUND # \_\_\_\_\_ EVALUATOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**COMMENTS:**  
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**DEFENSE TEAM # \_\_\_\_\_ ROUND # \_\_\_\_\_ EVALUATOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**COMMENTS:**  
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**JUDGE # \_\_\_\_\_ ROUND # \_\_\_\_\_ EVALUATOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**COMMENTS:**  
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