

Middle School Mock Trial Scoring Rubric

Performance indicators to consider when evaluating an attorney performance

- Professional demeanor, organized, and leadership is apparent
- Oratory skills (strong voice, eye contact, articulate, responsive)
- Understanding and advancing the team’s case through the facts of the case and legal theory
- Understanding opponent’s case and refutes the opposing argument (through the opening/closing or cross examination)
- Understanding trial techniques (productive opening/closing, effective use of objections, appropriate form of questioning, etc)
- Understanding courtroom procedure and process
- Complies with competition rules

Performance indicators to consider when evaluating a witness performance

- Knowledge of case facts and theory of team’s case
- Believability of character and convincing in testimony, without going beyond the witness statement
 - Props, accents, costumes, and clothing are NOT to be taken into account
- Oratory skills (strong voice, eye contact, articulate, responsive)
- Understanding of courtroom procedure and process
- Complies with competition rules

Points	Performance	Criteria
9-10	Excellent	The student is excellent in most, if not all, of the performance indicators. S/He demonstrates poise, a logical argument, and quick thinking. The student is fluent, persuasive, clear, understandable, and advances the team’s argument in all aspects within in the role. Deftly deflects the opposing argument.
7-8	Good	The student did a good job in most of the performance indicators – solid, but less than spectacular. This student demonstrates an understanding of the case and the team’s argument, but did not advance it as well as one rated as “excellent”. The student is able to skillfully deflect most of the opposing argument. Carries himself/herself well, but shows some signs of doubt or uncertainty.
5-6	Fair	The student is fair in his/her performance. S/He is not wholly confident performing outside the script. Grasps the major aspects of the case, but does not convey complete command. Communication and poise are acceptable, but could be stronger in fluency and persuasiveness. Shaky when attempting to deflect an opposing argument.
3-4	Weak	The student is weak in his/her performance and/or did not accomplish many of the performance indicators. The student seems minimally informed and prepared. A distinct lack of depth and knowledge in the team’s argument is present and the student has a hard time deflecting the opposing argument. Absence of confidence is evident and communication lacks clarity and conviction.
1-2	Poor	The student exhibits poor or no accomplishment in any of the performance indicators. S/He is unsure of self, illogical, uninformed, and not prepared. The student is ineffective in advancing the team’s argument and/or curbing the opposing argument. Lack of poise and communication skills highly evident.