

*Partnering With Teachers to  
Bring Citizenship to Life*



## Middle School Mock Trial Virtual Showcase

We know that students have worked hard to prepare their case and we want to honor their efforts. All submissions must go through a teacher/advisor who will then send the recordings to OCLRE for judge evaluation. The guidelines for recorded submissions are included below.

If you and your students would like to participate in the virtual showcase, [please register \(free of charge\) here](#).

### Video Submission Guidelines:

#### **1. General Guidelines:**

- Your team will submit opening statements, direct examinations, and closing arguments\*
- Recordings may be submitted as videos, audio only, or a mix of both.
- Recordings may be submitted as individual clips or as one compiled team recording.
  - If submitting multiple clips, please label the files with the team name, and the portion of the case presented (e.g. School X – Opening Statement).
  - With advance notice, OCLRE can assist in the editing and compiling of recordings. Please indicate on your registration form if you will need assistance with this.
- Direct examinations will require students to record with another team member as an attorney must be “present” to ask questions and a witness must be “present” to respond to questioning.
  - This interaction may be done as a recorded Zoom meeting, Google Hangouts meeting, or other type of video chat. The interaction may also be done as a recorded phone conversation.
- Because teams are not facing an opponent, there will be no attorney or witness awards. All team members will receive a digital copy of their participation certificate.
- We recognize that every student may not be able to participate. Teams can submit any portion of the recording that they are able to, and teams will not be penalized for missing portions
  - e.g. if only two of the six witnesses wish to, or can participate, the team may still submit a video
- Technological limitations will not affect student feedback from the judges. Teams are welcome to submit video or audio of students for judge feedback, with the assurance that no student will be penalized for their lack of access to technology.

*\* There are stipulations for students who play multiple roles. Please review the guidelines for attorneys and witnesses.*

## 2. Attorney Roles:

- Each attorney will record a prepared opening statement *or* closing argument.
  - Opening statements are limited to a *maximum* of 4 minutes.
  - Closing statements are limited to a *maximum* of 4 minutes.
    - No rebuttal is permitted for closing statements.
    - Closing statements should be written based on an imaginary opponent's trial (i.e. imagine what evidence/arguments opposing counsel would have presented)
  - If a student plays an attorney on both sides of the case, they will select only **one** side of their choosing for feedback.
    - For example, if student A gives an opening statement on Prosecution and a closing argument on Defense, they must choose only one to record and have scored.
- Each attorney will also have an opportunity for feedback on direct examination. The guidelines for direct examination are included below under "Witness Roles."

## 3. Witness Roles:

- Each witness will submit a video of their direct examination from one attorney on your team.
  - Direct Examination is limited to a *maximum* of 6 minutes per witness.
  - There will be no cross-examination, no re-direct, and no re-cross.
  - If a student plays a witness on both sides of the case, they will select only one side of their choosing for feedback.
    - For example, if a student plays Stanley Yelnats on Prosecution and also Warden Walker on Defense, they will choose one character for their direct examination feedback.
    - If one student plays an attorney on both sides of the case, they must choose only **one** direct examination performance for feedback.
      - For example, if student A direct examines Stanley Yelnats and Zero on Prosecution and also direct examines Mr. Sir on Defense, they must choose only **one** of those direct examinations for feedback.

## Steps for Teachers/Advisors:

- Complete the team sign-up form [HERE](#).
  - This form indicates that you will submit a recording(s) for your team.
  - You will list all students who should receive a participation certificate.
  - You will identify each student by name and indicate the role they will play.

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- If students have multiple roles, please indicate the role they are submitting for feedback.
- Collect recorded performances from your students.
- Submit recordings to OCLRE.
  - If you submit the recordings individually, please **clearly label** each recording in the correct order. We will need to know which clip goes first, second, last, etc. so that judges may view a cohesive performance.

**Recording Options:**

- Google Hangouts allows you to record video meetings.
- Zoom allows you to record video meetings. There are privacy measures such as passcodes, locked rooms, etc. that can help ensure privacy for those using this method.
- Zoom also has a dial in feature that allows participants to call from a regular telephone if they do not have video capability.
- Please contact OCLRE if you have concerns about technology or need assistance in facilitating this process.