

**Youth Judicial 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