



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

LEARNING BY DOING

ALABAMA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

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