



# NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

## Journalism Contest 2023 Criteria

Each courtroom article entry will be judged based on the following criteria:

5 – Outstanding    4 – Above Average    3 – Average    2 – Below Average    1 – Poor

**Enticing Lead Paragraph with Basic Elements of the Case** - Did the reporter develop an enticing lead paragraph with the necessary and basic elements of the case? (Who, what, where, when, why, and how.)

**Newsworthy Facts** - Did the reporter write about the most newsworthy facts that occurred during the trial and not merely reiterate the case packet?

**Story Structure** - Did the reporter properly structure the story with the most important elements early in the article (inverted pyramid)?

**Vivid Reporting** - Did the reporter make the article vivid by using well-chosen direct quotes from testimony and/or descriptions of the courtroom scene, participants, or their behavior? And did the reporter write as if this was a real trial and not a high school competition?

**Mechanics** - Uses correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

**Holistic Assessment** - Review the article in its entirety. Review for its overall accuracy, storytelling, and following the rules/requirements.

3 – Outstanding    2 – Average    1 – Below Average    0 – Missing

**Legal Procedures and Judicial Process** - Demonstrates a sufficient understanding of legal procedures and the judicial process.

**Fair and Accurate** - Presents a fair and accurate account of events without any apparent editorial slant.

**Headline** - Has an accurate headline that does not editorialize?

**Dateline** - Has the proper dateline?