

## Considerations in Scoring Mock Trial Attorneys and Witnesses

### Attorneys

Opening Statement	Did they provide an overview of the witnesses and their testimony, evidence, and how it will prove the case? Did they introduce a theme/theory of the case? Did they outline the burden of proof? What is the requested relief (what the side is asking the court to decide)?
Direct Attorney / Examination	Asked properly phased open ended questions that allowed explanation or description of the situation Sequenced questions logically Did not ask questions that required any unfair extrapolations Laid foundation for witness testimony Elicited relevant, important evidence from witnesses Continued with consistent theme/theory of the case Provided proper objections during opposing team's cross examination Utilized objections to move the case forward and not just to throw the other side off their game Made/defended objections utilizing rules of evidence or the rules of the competition Recovered well after objections Adjusted to judges' rulings Addressed actual testimony Followed proper protocol for introducing exhibits Demonstrated an understanding of the rules of competition and evidence On re-direct, <b>which is fully optional</b> , rehabilitated/redeemed witnesses <sup>1</sup>
Cross Attorney / Examination	Continued with consistent theme/theory of the case Provided proper objections during opposing team's direct examination Made/defended to objections utilizing rules of evidence or the rules of the competition Utilized objections to move the case forward and not just to throw the other sided off their game Recovered well after objections Adjusted to judges' rulings Addressed actual testimony Elicited facts favorable to the attorney's case Asked properly phrased questions that weakened the testimony given during direct examination Used appropriate leading questions suggesting a "yes/no" answer Attempted to appropriately control the witness consistent with the judges' rulings Properly impeached the witness, if needed, without appearing to harass or intimidate Followed proper protocol for introducing exhibits Demonstrated an understanding of the rules of competition and evidence Limited re-cross examination to scope of redirect examination, <b>recross examinations are fully optional</b> <sup>2</sup>

**Theme was carried through to closing**  
**Refers to jury instructions or other legal standards when necessary**  
**Asked for the verdict, including a request for relief, if appropriate and explained why the verdict was justifiable**

### Witnesses

**Presented an interesting and authentic character**  
**Highlighted the strengths of his/her statements and adequately explained the weaknesses**  
**Did not make a mess**

**Performance**