

Top Ten Mock Trial Judging Tips

1. Read the materials (the students know when you don't); know the rules.
2. Know the *mock trial* rules.
3. Judge based on mock trial standards not your real life opinion of the case.
4. Use the rating standards. Be consistent and compassionate. Be fair; be reasonable.
5. Be concise in your post-trial feedback and mindful of the clock.
6. Use a calculator to check your math. An error in arithmetic can change the outcome of the trial!
7. Let students argue objections.
8. Arrive early so the trial can begin on time.
9. In the event of a tie, the tie-breaker point is used by the presiding judge to break the tie.
10. Even though some testimony might be irrelevant, it must be let in for mock trial purposes. Some people still need to tell their stories.