

Judging Tips

1. Please let the advocates get a couple of minutes into their argument before asking questions.
2. Ask about cases that contradict counsel's argument. Students should be able to distinguish them from the case at bar.
3. Query counsel on the policy implications of the result they are advocating.
4. Ask a question that jumps ahead of counsel's argument.
5. Ask a question that involves the advocate personally.
6. Please make your questions short and simple.
7. Ask a friendly question (the proverbial "softball").
8. Present fact patterns with subtle changes from the instant case that will result in a different issue for consideration.
9. Ask for facts of cases that counsel relies on in their argument.
10. Ask if a particular rule of law is the holding or the dictum in a case relied on by the advocate.
11. When counsel's time is up, he or she will probably ask the court for a few moments to make a closing argument. Allow them to do so if you wish.

Scoring Guidelines

1. Please complete a separate grading sheet for each advocate. Scores should be based on your impressions of the advocate in general, not merely as a comparison to the other advocate's performance.
2. Please score each advocate in all areas. In the past, some judges have left some scores to fill in later, we have had some scores inadvertently overlooked or delayed. This makes it harder to figure out what the score should have been originally.
3. We hope to have scoring as consistent as possible, with all judges having about the same average scores. Accordingly, we ask that you please base your scores on the presumption that each advocate has "Average; solid" ability (i.e. 3.0 on the scale), unless there is a specific indication during the round that an advocate should be scored differently.
4. In the event that you judge the same advocate more than once, please base your scores only on their performance in the current round, as opposed to basing them on changes made since the last round.
5. Please be as honest and straightforward as you can in your comments. Most competitors want the truth—even if it is uncomfortable—if it will help them in their training. Your personal experiences are invaluable training tools, so please point out what was done correctly or incorrectly and how the advocate might improve their advocacy. That said, certainly try to be positive and offer encouragement as well.
6. Please bring ANY questions or problems to the attention of the bailiff immediately. We will try to answer or rectify as quickly as possible.
7. Thank you again for supporting the Law School and the Moot Court Program. We cannot emphasize enough how grateful we are for your assistance.