

2019-2020 California Mock Trial

Summary of Teacher/Attorney Coach Questions

10/25/19

1. Shouldn't a witness be able to testify to what they would reasonably know from the Fact Situation?

A witness can only testify to their own witness statement and any portion of the fact situation, stipulations, and exhibits, of which you would reasonably have knowledge.

2. In the middle school, since there is no pretrial, is the evidence from the search allowed in the trial?

For middle school trials the search of the office room is constitutional, evidence of the items in question are admissible and the bracketed text in the facts and witness statements and Exhibit C may be used during the trial.

3. Can you clarify the warnings that the clerk provides – visual and verbal?

LA teams should follow the Los Angeles County Mock Trial Rulebook.

Rule 3.8 — Clerk, Bailiff, and Unofficial Timers

J. In LA County, both visual and verbal warnings will be given a two-minute, one-minute, 30 second, and stop warnings. The time remaining cards must be displayed in a manner to ensure that there is a clear view for the counsel and presiding judge. The clerk will stop students (both visually and verbally) at the end of the allotted time for each section.

At the state finals, teams should follow the California Mock Trial Rulebook.

Rule 3.8 — Clerk, Bailiff, and Unofficial Timers

J. At the State Finals, 'two-minute' and 'stop' warnings must be given both visually and verbally before the end of each section. The 'one-minute' and '30 second' visual warnings (not verbal) must be given before the end of each section. The time remaining cards must be displayed in a manner to ensure that there is a clear view for the counsel and presiding judge. The clerk will stop students (both visually and verbally) at the end of the allotted time for each section.

4. Can clerk (or unofficial timer) use a phone or tablet to keep time?

No phones, tablets, or other electronic devices allowed at all during the competition. Clerk and unofficial timer can only use a stop watch to keep time.