CA Mock Trial Program

Courtroom Journalist Contest
2022 Criteria

Each courtroom journalist entry will be judge based on the following criteria:

**Newsworthy Facts:**
Does the article feature the most newsworthy facts that occurred during the trial on which they were reporting?

**Fair and Accurate:**
Present a fair and accurate account of events without any apparent editorial slant?

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

**Story Structure:**
Properly structure the story with the most important elements early in the article (inverted pyramid)?

**Legal Procedures and Judicial Process:**
Demonstrate sufficient understanding of legal procedures and the judicial process?

**Vivid Reporting:**
Make the report vivid by using direct quotes from testimony or descriptions of the courtroom scene, participants, or their behavior?

**Pretrial Motion:**
Include appropriate coverage of the pretrial motion?

**Mechanics:**
Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation?

**Headline:**
Have an accurate headline that does not editorialize?

**Dateline:**
Have the proper dateline?

**Wholistic Assessment:**
Please review the article in its entirety. Please review for its overall accurate and storytelling.