

## Journalist Contest - Judging Scoresheet

Each category below will have a scale - anywhere from 5 to 0 depending on the category for a total of 45 points. Please read each criterion and score accordingly.

5-Outstanding 4-Above Average 3-Average 2-Below Average 1-Poor	Score 5-1
1 - Enticing Lead Paragraph with Basic Elements of the Case - Did the reporter develop an enticing lead paragraph with the necessary and basic elements of the case? (Who, what, where, when, why, and how.)	
2 - Newsworthy Facts - Did the reporter write about the most newsworthy facts that occurred during the trial and not merely reiterate the case packet?	
3 - Story Structure - Did the reporter properly structure the story with the most important elements early in the article (inverted pyramid)?	
4 - Vivid Reporting - Did the reporter make the article vivid by using well-chosen direct quotes from testimony and/or descriptions of the courtroom scene, participants, or their behavior? <i>And</i> did the reporter write as if this was a real trial and not a high school competition?	
5 - Mechanics - Did the reporter use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation?	
3-Outstanding 2-Average 1-Below Average 0-Missing	Score 3-0
6 - Pretrial - Did the reporter include appropriate coverage of the pretrial motion?	
7 - Legal Procedures and Judicial Process - Did the reporter demonstrate a sufficient understanding of legal procedures and the judicial process?	
8 - Fair and Accurate - Did the reporter present a fair and accurate account of events without any apparent editorial slant?	
9 - Headline - Did the reporter have an accurate headline that does not editorialize?	
10 - Dateline - Did the reporter have the proper dateline?	
5-Outstanding 4-Above Average 3-Average 2-Below Average 1-Poor	Score 5-1
11 - Holistic Assessment - Review the article in its entirety. Review for its overall accuracy, storytelling, and did the reporter follow the rules/requirements.	
Total Points	