

TEAM CODE _____

**2006 HIGH SCHOOL APPELLATE COMPETITION
ORAL ARGUMENT SCORE SHEET**

Judges: Award points for each element, and subtotal the points for each category. PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK YOUR MATH. A total of 100 points are available. In grading each argument, focus on those areas of public speaking that are not easily taught, i.e., legal analysis and persuasiveness. When complete, TOTAL your score at the bottom, sign your name, and date the form. Please submit form to the FLREA representative.

<u>KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT MATTER:</u>	<u>Issue 1</u>	<u>Issue 2</u>
Appropriate Introduction (States name, party, and issue to be addressed)	_____	_____/ 5 pts. Max
Knowledge of the Record	_____	_____/ 8 pts. Max
Knowledge of Precedents	_____	_____/ 8 pts. Max
Quality of Legal Arguments	_____	_____/ 9 pts. Max
Subtotal:	_____	_____/ 30 pts. Max
<u>RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING:</u>		
Responsiveness to Questions	_____	_____/ 9 pts. Max
Use of Authority	_____	_____/ 9 pts. Max
Focus on Issues	_____	_____/ 8 pts. Max
Candid on Weak Points	_____	_____/ 8 pts. Max
Subtotal:	_____	_____/ 34 pts. Max
<u>FORENSIC SKILLS:</u>		
Grammar and Pronunciation	_____	_____/ 5 pts. Max
Voice	_____	_____/ 10 pts. Max
Nonverbal Gestures	_____	_____/ 7 pts. Max
Subtotal:	_____	_____/ 22 pts. Max
<u>COURTROOM DEMEANOR:</u>		
Professional Presence	_____	_____/ 7 pts. Max
Deference to the Court	_____	_____/ 7 pts. Max
Subtotal:	_____	_____/ 14 pts. Max
TOTAL:	_____	_____/ 100 pts. Max

Judge's Name: _____

Date: _____

NOTES & COMMENTS: [WRITE ON BACK]

BRIEF SCORE SHEET GUIDELINES

Appropriate Introduction	Does the speaker introduce his or herself in a concise manner? Does the competitor give a broad but brief overview of the argument?
Knowledge of the Record	Does the competitor have a thorough knowledge of the record? Can the competitor readily identify and utilize important sections of the record?
Knowledge of the Precedents	Does the competitor have a thorough knowledge of the legal decisions surrounding the case? Does the competitor utilize the facts of those decisions favorably?
Quality of Legal Arguments	Does the competitor make clear and convincing arguments based on all the information surrounding the case? Do the arguments appear both logical and persuasive?
Responsiveness to Questions	Does the competitor answer questions directly or evade and avoid answering the question? Is the competitor able to sufficiently answer the question?
Use of Authority	Can the competitor answer questions using case law?
Focus on Issues	Does the competitor remain focused on the issue before the court or veer off into tangents? Does the competitor maintain the previous argument after answering a question?
Candid on Weak Points	Is the competitor candid about the weak points in the argument? Does the competitor sufficiently answer concerns about those points in the argument?
Grammar and Pronunciation	Does the competitor speak properly?
Voice	Does the competitor speak with appropriate volume and good inflections? Does the competitor speak clearly? Does the competitor avoid the use of verbalized pauses (“uhms” and “ers”)?
Nonverbal Gestures	Does the competitor use gestures effectively and appropriately? Does the competitor avoid distracting gestures, such as swaying and nervous gestures?

Professional Presence	Does the competitor appear to be helpful to the Court? Does the competitor use a conversational but professional tone? Does the competitor display an appropriate amount of confidence?
Deference to the Court	Is the competitor courteous rather than sarcastic, condescending, or resentful? Does the competitor appropriately answer questions without evading? Does the competitor cease argument when time is up or must the court remind the competitor that time is up?