

YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Judicial Scoring Rubric – Briefs and Oral Arguments

INTERPRETATION OF FACTS

- 0: Facts are absent completely in argument
- 1: Facts are continuously erroneous in argument.
- 2: Facts are ineffective and unnecessarily incorporated, with errors.
- 3: Facts unnecessarily recapped, erroneous, or not incorporated in argument.
- 4: Facts are well recapped but not effectively used throughout argument.
- 5: Facts are well recapped and important facts are incorporated throughout the argument.

UNDERSTANDING OF LEGAL ISSUE(S)

- 0: No legal issues are presented.
- 1: No understanding/ineffective understanding of legal issues.
- 2: Legal issues stray from case and articulation hinders presenter's message.
- 3: Presenter articulates most legal issues but strays slightly from the point.
- 4: Throughout most of the argument, an articulation of important legal issues is apparent.
- 5: Intelligent articulation of legal issues throughout the argument. Presenter is clearly knowledgeable of the legal issues at hand.

KNOWLEDGE AND SUCCESSFUL USE OF CASE LAW

- 0: No case law is presented.
- 1: Weak application and analysis.
- 2: Application of case law supports argument but only meekly advances the stance of the presenter's message.
- 3: Application of case law somewhat advances the overall stance and supports the argument.
- 4: Case law application advances and greatly supports the argument but no innovation is present.
- 5: Application of case law advances the argument and greatly supports the presenter's message. An obvious understanding and innovation are present.

EFFECTIVENESS AND PERSUASIVENESS OF ARGUMENT

- 0: Argument is unintelligible.
- 1: Almost no/ineffective persuasion.
- 2: Persuasion is minimal but present in at least some of the argument.
- 3: This score accounts for two situations: (A) half of the argument has evident persuasion while half is lacking, or (B) most of the argument is evidently persuasive, but ineffective.
- 4: The majority of the argument includes evident and mostly effective persuasion.
- 5: A mix of spin, effective analysis, and understanding of legal issues all add to a moving, persuasive argument.

OVERALL WRITING OF BRIEF / OVERALL Demeanor OF ORAL ARGUMENT

- 0: No effort exhibited.
- 1: Writing is seriously flawed; speaker shows serious distress and is unable to answer questions.
- 2: Writing is marginal; speaker is not able to answer questions, but shows few signs of distress.
- 3: Writing and argument is somewhat composed.
- 4: Writing is well done with little mistakes; speaker answers questions completely, but with hesitation or conference with their partner. They are composed and prepared.
- 5: Writing is top-rate and creative; speaker is composed and does not seem distressed or bothered. They answer all questions completely and confidently.