

Name of Competitor: _____

Name of Judge: _____

Chief Justice / Timekeeper (**Circle One**)

Instructions: In order to properly evaluate advocates, you must read the rubric closely ahead of time to know what you are looking for as you listen to their arguments. Also, please avoid using decimals. Begin by asking, “If you feel comfortable, please share with us your name and pronouns.”

STRUCTURE		
When scoring these elements, do not consider style or presentation. Focus on the inclusion of the elements		
Introduction (1 point) ➤ Does the advocate include the “may it please the court...” statement and reserve time for rebuttal if applicable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 if no ● 1 if yes 	
Theme (2 points) ➤ Does the advocate include a theme statement (e.g., “this case is about...”) ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 if no ● 1 if yes ● 2 if yes and particularly clear and compelling 	
Roadmap (2 points) ➤ Does the advocate include the prayer for relief, and a roadmap of their argument?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 if no ● 1 if yes ● 2 if yes and particularly clear or compelling 	
Conclusion (2 points) ➤ Does the advocate restate his/her roadmap and prayer for relief? Alternatively, “for the foregoing reasons” is acceptable when an advocate has run out of time. ➤ Does the advocate end on time (more than 5 minutes but less than 10) or ask for permission from the court to briefly conclude?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 points if no for both ● 1 point if mixed ● 2 points if yes to both 	
SUBSTANCE		
When scoring these elements, do not consider style or presentation. Focus on content of the argument		
Well supported/reasoned claims (8 points) ➤ Does the advocate’s argument reference the law in an accurate or reasonable manner? ➤ Does the argument include precedent? ➤ Does the include policy arguments? ➤ Are the arguments persuasive? ➤ Has the advocate addressed counter-arguments?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 point if all answers no ● 1 points if 1 yes ● 3 points if 2 yes ● 5 points if 3 yes ● 7 points if 4 yes ● 8 points if 4 yes and arguments are supported <i>exceptionally well</i> 	
Command of materials and law (4 points) ➤ Does the advocate avoid misrepresenting the law? ➤ Does the advocate avoid misrepresenting the facts? ➤ Is the advocate readily able to recall facts and the law to support their argument?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 if all no ● 1 point if 1 yes ● 2 points if 2 yes ● 3 points if 3 yes ● 4 points if yes and the advocate demonstrates an <i>exceptional</i> command of the material to support their arguments 	
Responsiveness to questions (4 points) ➤ Does the advocate clearly answer the question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 points if all no ● 1 points if 1 yes 	

<p>asked? (“yes” or “no” when appropriate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the response address every component of the question? ➤ Does the advocate use the question to support his/her argument? ➤ Is the answer substantively reasonable? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 points if 2 yes ● 3 points if 3 yes ● 4 points if all yes 	
<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>When scoring these elements, do not consider substance. Focus on the style of the argument.</p>		
<p>Clarity (5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the advocate speak at an appropriate pace? ➤ Does the advocate speak at an appropriate volume (i.e., is audible but refrains from yelling)? ➤ Does the advocate present the argument in a logical, organized manner? ➤ Can you easily identify the main points of the argument? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 points if all no ● 1 point if 1 yes ● 2 points if 2 yes ● 3 points if 3 yes ● 4 points if 4 yes ● 5 points if 4 yes and advocate does each <i>exceptionally</i> well. 	
<p>Transitions (3 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the advocate transition smoothly between questions and their argument? ➤ Does the advocate transition smoothly between different parts of their argument? ➤ Does the advocate use transition words (e.g., first, second, next, finally, furthermore, thus)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 points if all no ● 1 point if 1 yes ● 2 points if 2 yes ● 3 points if 3 yes 	
<p>Use of appropriate formalities (2 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the advocate use “Your Honor,” “Justice/Judge,” “Mister/Madame Chief Justice?” ➤ Does the advocate use the correct terms for referring to their opponent (i.e., “appellant” / “appellee,” “petitioner” / “respondent,” or name of opponent instead of “my opponent?”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 points if both no ● 1 point if 1 yes ● 2 points if 2 yes 	
<p>Respectfulness to Court (3 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the advocate avoid interrupting or speaking over the Court? ➤ Does the advocate adopt a conversational tone when responding to questions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 points if repeated interruption ● 1 point if sometimes interrupts ● 2 points if no interruption ● 3 points if no interruptions and conversational tone adopted 	
<p>Presentation (6 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the advocate make a good faith effort to dress professionally? ➤ Does the advocate avoid excessive use of filler words like “um,” “uh,” and “like?” ➤ Does the advocate make eye contact? ➤ Does the advocate avoid reading from notes excessively? ➤ Does the advocate use the podium appropriately (i.e., avoids leaning on or gripping the podium)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0 points if all no ● 1 point if 1 yes ● 2 points if 2 yes ● 3 points if 3 yes ● 4 points if 4 yes ● 5 points if 5 yes ● 6 points if 6 yes 	

➤ Does the advocate use body language (e.g., hand motions) persuasively as opposed to a distracting use?		
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