

**COMPETITOR INFORMATION**

**Purpose** To encourage criminal justice students to improve their ability to properly qualify a scientist as a testimonial expert witness in a court of law.

**Description** This event will consist of two parts. During Part One competitors will be given a scenario in which they will prepare predicate questions to qualify an expert witness. Competitors will have twenty (20) minutes to prepare their questions. There will be no points assessed in Part One. During Part Two competitors will meet with the expert witness in front of a panel of judges and qualify the witness with their predicate questions. Competitors will have ten (10) minutes to qualify the witness.

**Dress Code** Competitors shall be dressed in Business Professional attire as defined in the TPSA Dress Code Policy.

**Maximum Teams** 1

**Competitors Per Team** 1

- Event Rules**
- Competitors in this event must be active members of the Texas Public Service Association and in good standing with the Texas Public Service Association.
  - Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the Texas Public Service Association Bylaws and Code of Conduct.
  - Plagiarism, copyright violation and falsification of information are prohibited. Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage will not be tolerated. Violation of the code of conduct or bylaws will result in disqualification and revocation of Texas Public Service Association membership.
  - The scenario is a secret topic. Professional ethics demand that competitors DO NOT discuss or reveal the secret topic until after the event has concluded. Violation of the ethics rules will result in disqualification and revocation of Texas Public Service Association membership.
  - Competitors must turn in all case notes and predicate questions to the Judge upon completion of the event.
  - The competitor may not have pre written questions prior to entering the competition area. All questions must be prepared inside the event location. The students notepad must be blank at the start of competition.

- Event Procedures**
1. Competitor will report to their respective event when called for or at a set reporting time.
  2. Competitor must check in with event management upon arrival and present photo identification for verification.
  3. Competitor will be directed (by room moderator) into the event room.

4. Instructions will be given (by room moderator) to the Competitor.
5. Competitor will be given 20 minutes to prepare predicate questions.
6. Competitor will be directed to the area where he/she will qualify the expert witness in front of the judge(s).
7. Competitor will have ten (10) minutes to qualify their expert witness.
8. Penalty points shall be assessed for exceeding the time limit in Part Two as follows: Loss of five (5) points for questioning under eight (8) minutes or over ten (10) minutes

- Competitor Supplies**
- Photo Identification (See [Policies](#) for more information)
  - Light briefcase or portfolio case
  - Blank writing pad
  - Writing utensil

## EVENT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

- Event Personnel**
- Event Manager:** Manages the competitors, makes sure the event is running on time, i.e. runs the event outside the “room”.
  - 2x Room Moderator:** Required for Part One, provides quality assurance for the event by ensuring that the guidelines are followed, all event documents are complete, and is the timekeeper if applicable. The room moderator operates inside the event room during the competition. The room moderator will ensure that no writing is present in the students notepad/ padfolio upon the beginning of the event.
  - 1-2x Judges:** Judges the competition
  - Event assistants:** 1 for Part One to escort competitors to part 2
  - 1x Actor(s):** Will simulate needed scenarios accurately portraying real life events.

- Event Facilities**
- 2 classrooms or flex areas
  - Room for competitors to prepare predicate questions
  - Tables and chairs for competitors
  - Room for competitors to qualify the expert witness
  - Presentation table
  - Table and chairs for judges

- Event Equipment**
- Timer

- Event Materials**
- Multiple copies of the event scenario
    - This must include the case in which the expert is testifying
    - Specification of the scientific field of expertise to the competitor

- Curriculum Vitae of the Expert Witness
- Rubric/Score sheet
- Writing utensil

**SCORING INFORMATION**

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>LOWEST POINTS</b>	<b>HIGHEST POINTS</b>
<b>Initial</b>		
Appearance	0	5
Self Introduction	0	5
Knowledge of Case	0	5
<b>Qualifying Questions for the Expert Witness</b>		
Demonstrates that the expert is qualified through knowledge, skill, practical experience, training, education, or a combination of these factors.	0	10
Put curriculum vitae or resume into evidence.	0	5
Tender witness as an expert witness in the field of (scientific field of expertise).	0	5
<b>Communication</b>		
Voice	0	5
Grammar	0	5
Pronunciation	0	5
<b>Penalties</b>		
Questioning under 8 minutes	NA	-5
Questioning over 10 minutes	NA	-5

*All points are assumed to be scaled low to high, with high being the best unless specified by Yes/No or other scoring procedure.*