

COMPETITOR INFORMATION

Purpose To encourage criminal justice students to improve their ability to properly present a closing argument for a criminal case in a court of law.

Description This event will consist of two parts. During Part One competitors will be provided with a criminal case file to review and prepare a closing argument. Competitors will have thirty (30) minutes to prepare their argument. Competitors may choose to present the case as the Prosecuting Attorney or the Defense Attorney. There will be no points assessed in Part One. During Part Two competitors will have five (5) minutes to present the Closing Argument to a panel of judges in a simulated courtroom.

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

Maximum Teams 3

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 to the Judge upon completion of the Closing Argument.

- 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(s)/Team(s).
 5. Competitor will be given thirty (30) minutes to prepare the closing argument from documents provided by judge.

6. Competitor will be directed to the area where he/she will present the case.
7. The competitor may use their notes during the presentation, however all notes shall be turned in to the judge before leaving the event area.
8. Competitor will have no more than five (5) minutes to present the case to the Judge(s).
9. Penalty points shall be assessed for time during Part Two in the following manner:
Loss of five (5) points for a presentation under three (3) minutes or over five (5) 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”.
 - **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.
 - **1-2x Judges:** Judges the competition
 - **Event assistants:** 1 for Part One & 1 for Part Two
- Event Facilities**
- Room for competitors to prepare their case
 - Tables and chairs for competitors
 - Simulated courtroom
 - Presentation table
 - Table and chairs for judges
- Event Equipment**
- Timer
- Event Materials**
- Multiple copies of the criminal case file
 - Rubric/Score sheet
 - Writing utensil

SCORING INFORMATION

CRITERIA	LOWEST POINTS	HIGHEST POINTS
Initial		
Appearance	0	5
Self Introduction	0	5
Knowledge of Case	0	5
Organization		
Law	0	5
Evidence	0	5
Witness(es)	0	5
Delivery		
Voice	0	5
Grammar	0	5
Pronunciation	0	5
Speaking from memory, minimal reliance on notes	0	5
Penalties		
Delivery under 3 minutes	NA	-5
Delivery over 5 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.