



YMCA Michigan Youth in Government NJC Appellate Preparation

Here are some items to help you prepare for the Appellate Competition.

1. Each team mate will need to select the question they plan on presenting for both the pro and con side.
 - a. Was the city's noise ordinance a violation of the protestors' First Amendment rights as applied in this circumstance?
 - b. Were Leslie Dylan's First Amendment rights violated when she was fired for missing work in order to attend this protest?
2. Read through the [Case Packet](#). Be sure to highlight and take notes!
3. Read through the [Rules & Rubric Packet](#). Be sure to highlight and take notes!
4. Read through the [Precedent document](#). Be sure to highlight and take notes!
5. Listen to a Supreme Court argument or two on Oyez (<https://www.oyez.org/>). This will help you gain an understanding of how real life lawyers arguing before the Supreme Court must argue. Note that the lawyers tend to get frequently interrupted with questions and must be good at thinking on their feet to answer them! You too will also experience questions from justices during your presentation.
6. Switch roles and put yourselves into the justice's shoes. This will help you anticipate what questions the justices will want to ask you, and your potential response to them.
 - a. Spend some time writing down questions you think a justice might ask you about your presentation on the case question. Also note a possible response to these questions.



- b. Be sure to record these questions in your notes and a possible response! You will want these to study and edit during the conference as you get more feedback.
- 7. Practice giving a timed elevator 'pitch' of your argument to your partner, teacher, coach, parents or friends.
 - a. Have the person listening write out questions beforehand and allow them to interrupt you with questions during your argument. Be sure to record these questions in your notes and a possible response! You will want these to study and edit during the conference as you get more feedback.
 - b. Try to succinctly explain your answer to a question the person listening might have in a minute or less.
 - c. Get feedback from the person listening on your responses afterwards, which will help you edit answers to potential questions you might be asked.
 - d. Get feedback from the person listening to your presentation to help you edit your presentation.
- 8. Practice asking questions.
 - a. Listen to your partner's presentation and ask them questions as they present.
 - b. Listen to part of a Supreme Court case (linked above) and write down what question you would ask throughout the case.