

Virtual Supreme Court Preliminary Round Grading Rubric

Brief Scoring Sheet (50 total points)

- I. Introduction (5 Points)**
 - A. Caption includes parties, team member names, contact information
 - B. Table of contents includes each issue discussed in brief
 - C. Table of authorities includes all authorities, separated by authority type
- II. Summary of Argument (5 points)**
 - A. Correctly states issues
 - B. Articulates legal questions and includes relevant facts
 - C. Succinct and concise - less than 250 words
- III. Analysis of Precedent (15 points)**
 - A. Identifies at least five Supreme Court precedents
 - B. Explains why those precedents support their position
 - C. Addresses precedents that do not support their position
- IV. Argument (15 points)**
 - A. Headings are each a single sentence clearly stating the arguments being presented and a conclusion that the Court may accept or reject
 - B. Rules and rule explanations are stated separately from and before the analysis
 - C. Topic sentences are used to begin rule explanations and argument paragraphs
 - D. Arguments are clear, persuasive, and adequately supported by authority
 - E. Arguments make effective use of facts from discussed cases
 - F. The theme is conveyed throughout the arguments
 - G. Opponent's valid counter arguments and authorities are anticipated and rebutted using affirmative arguments
- V. Formatting (10 points)**
 - A. Avoids typos, spelling mistakes, and grammatical errors
 - B. Uses font from template (Century Schoolbook)
 - C. Uses full justification and standard margins
 - D. Roughly follows standard Bluebook citation formats (proper use of italics, smallcaps, etc.)

Oral Argument Scoring Sheet (50 total points)

- I. Appearance (5 points)**
 - A. Both advocates wear courtroom attire
 - B. Students sitting behind desk, or standing behind podium or lectern
 - C. Neutral background
- II. Delivery (10 points)**
 - A. Maintains eye contact
 - B. Avoids reading off of prepared remarks as much as possible
 - C. Uses notes effectively (i.e., to accurately quote important principles/doctrine from cases and/or historical materials)
 - D. Uses advocacy tone (strongly advocating his/her side without being overly aggressive or combative)
 - E. Uses proper grammar and pronunciation
- III. Timing (10 points)**
 - A. Presentation lasts at least 15 minutes
 - B. Teammates roughly split time in half
 - C. Roughly equal time is given to each questions (about 1.5 minutes per question)
- IV. Argument (25 points)**
 - A. Answer all ten questions concisely and persuasively
 - B. Incorporate primary sources in answers
 - C. Incorporate Supreme Court precedent in answers