

2010 Moot Court Competition Rules

The following Rules of the Competition are in effect for the duration of the 2010 Moot Court Tryout Competition. If you have any questions regarding any of the Rules, please contact your group leader.
Please print out a copy of the Rules for your own reference throughout the competition.

1. Moot Court Board eligibility.

- 1) In the current year, the Moot Court Board may to invite up to eighteen (18) competitors in the Competition to become members of the Board. This number is the maximum number of competitors that will be selected and may be adjusted by the Board at any time during the competition.

2. Submission of the Final Briefs.

- 1) Competitors must turn in two (2) hard copies of their final brief.
 - a. Petitioner's briefs shall have a BLUE cover.
 - b. Respondent's briefs shall have a RED cover.
 - c. The brief must be bound along the left edge (either with three heavy-duty staples, or any binding offered by Kinko's or the like)
 - d. The final briefs shall all be turned in on the Fourth Floor at Toni McGuire's desk in the box marked for each group by the deadlines described below.
 - e. **DO NOT put your name on any assignment** – only put your group and anonymous numbers.
 - i. Your anonymous numbers will be given to you by Thursday, August 26 at 5:00 p.m. Do not lose this number! If for some reason you do, please email jmpizza@gmail.com.
- 2) Briefs shall conform to the briefs on reserve in the library and on the Moot Court's TWEN website. Examine these briefs for any cosmetic questions you may have on how the brief should look. I will be posting sample briefs before you receive the problem.
 - a. This includes conforming to bluebook citations, 1-inch margins on all sides, Times New Roman, 12pt font, double spaced, etc.
 - b. The Final brief shall be composed of the following
 - i. Title page
 - ii. Questions Presented
 - iii. Table of Contents
 - iv. Table of Authorities
 - v. Statement of Jurisdiction
 - vi. Statement of the Case
 1. Statement of Facts
 2. Procedural Background
 - vii. Summary of the Argument
 - viii. Argument
 - ix. Conclusion
 - x. Certificate of Service
 - xi. Appendices (if needed)

- 3) Final Briefs should be roughly 18-22 pages in length and may not to exceed 25 pages.

- a. Page length does not include the Questions Presented, Table of Authorities, Table of Contents, or Appendices.
 - b. However, the total length of the brief may not exceed 40 pages even including the above mentioned documents.
- 4) In addition to turning in two hard copies of your final brief, each competitor must submit a copy of their brief electronically by emailing them to jmpizza@gmail.com (only the final brief, not the 3 assignments) by **3:00 pm** on the day it is due.
- 5) Westlaw and LexisNexis both provide a service that allows you to feed your briefs into their system, and the system will check for errors in your citations. You may use this service, but be aware that it does not catch every error. You are responsible for the errors not caught by this system. Please check all of your citations carefully, with or without the help of this service.

3. Final Oral Arguments

- 1) Group 1 final oral arguments will start at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 30 (be present by 5:00 p.m. for instructions).
- 2) Group 2 final oral arguments will start at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 7 (be present by 5:00 p.m. for instructions).
- 3) It is our goal that each competitor will argue at least three times against another competitor.
 - a. In some cases, a competitor may argue four times (this will depend on the number of competitors for that night).
- 4) Petitioner and Respondent each have 15 minutes to present their arguments.
 - a. Petitioner has the option of setting aside up to three (3) of its 15 minutes as rebuttal time.

4. Scoring

- 1) The two highest scores of each competitor's oral arguments on the final oral argument night will be used to calculate the competitor's overall scores.
- 2) Overall scores will be based on the final brief score (50%) plus the final oral argument scores (50%). These scores will be calculated based on a standard deviation so accidental weighting does not occur. Competitors are also required to participate in three practice oral arguments prior to the final oral argument night. **Failure to attend or tardiness in attending any or all of these practice arguments will result in point penalties.**
- 3) Competitors are also required to submit three written assignments (practice portions of your brief) prior to your submission of the final brief. **Failure to turn any or all of these assignments in on time or at all will result in point penalties.**
- 4) The final briefs will be graded anonymously by Board members. The Competition Director will not grade the final briefs, as she is only person with knowledge of the anonymous numbers.
- 5) The Moot Court Board reserves the right to fail any person who has not made a true, good-faith effort to participate in every aspect of the competition.

5. Submission of Practice Writing Assignments

- 1) Competitors must turn in an electronic copy of each written assignment to jmpizza@gmail.com by noon on the day that it is due.

- a. Your name will clearly show with the e-mail, but DO NOT put your name on the actual assignment. Please put your competition number and whether you are petitioner or respondent on the actual assignment. Any and all Board members who receive these assignments for review will not know which competitor has submitted them.
- b. **Deadlines:** All practice assignments shall be turned in by the specified due date. Please refer to your group's Group Schedule for the exact due date/time for each exercise.

6. Practice Oral Arguments

- 1) Competitors must complete three (3) practice oral arguments. These will be heard on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the Competition. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the Moot Court office by Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. for the week's oral argument or a time will be assigned to you.
- 2) Practice Oral Argument Subject Matter
 - a. Each practice argument is intended to be a follow-up to each written assignment, therefore each practice argument will cover the following:
 - i. Practice argument #1 – Through the statement of facts (5 minutes)
 - ii. Practice argument #2 – Through the summary of the argument (8 minutes)
 - iii. Practice argument #3 – Through the first issue (12 minutes)
 - b. In order to fit everyone in for these practice sessions, time limits will be firmly enforced. If you go over the allotted time, the judges will stop you. There is no penalty for running for of time. This is purely in the name of time conservation.
- 3) Oral Argument Schedule:
 - a. Please refer to your group's Group Schedule for the exact due date/time for each practice.

7. Mandatory LexisNexis Training

1. All competitors must sign up for a 30 minute research training session starting Tuesday, August, 31st (for Group 1) and Tuesday, Sept 7th (for Group 2). This will be very helpful in your research efforts.

8. Penalties

- 1) The official clock for all timekeeping purposes, deadlines, and submission is the clock located on the TWEN page where you will be submitting your final briefs.
- 2) All penalties for late written assignments will be deducted at the rate of two points for every fifteen minutes late for the first hour; three points will be deducted for each hour thereafter.
- 3) **No final briefs will be accepted after 5:00 P.M. of the due date.**
- 4) Penalties will be assessed in the following manner for practice oral arguments:
 - a. A competitor is considered tardy if he/she is not present by three minutes after the scheduled practice oral argument time.
 - i. Tardiness to a practice oral argument will result in a two point penalty.
 - b. A competitor is considered absent if he/she is not present by ten minutes after the scheduled practice oral argument time.
 - i. Absence or failure to show to a practice oral argument will result in a five point penalty.

5) **Waivers of penalties**

- a. Waivers for penalties will be granted only for legitimate and exigent circumstances on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Competition Director. Examples include, but are not limited to, documented serious illness, death or serious illness of immediate family.
- b. Waivers of penalties will not be granted for common delays such as (but not limited to): traffic delays, computer problems, faulty alarm clocks, etc.
- c. All requests for waivers shall be submitted to the Director in writing as soon as possible.

9. Required Score

- 1) A competitor must have a Brief score of 60% or above to receive passing credit for the Moot Court class and to receive the writing credit. In addition, each competitor must participate in, and give a good faith effort toward, the final oral rounds. While no oral score is necessarily required to pass this class, the board reserves the right to penalize the brief score of anyone who does not show up for final arguments or who is obviously and overwhelmingly unprepared for the judges.
- 2) However, in order to make the Board, the competitor's Overall score will be considered in addition to the brief score.

10. Honor Code - Competitors' standard of conduct during the Competition

- 1) Competitors MAY NOT enter the Moot Court office (Room 304) at any time during the Competition.
- 2) Competitors MAY NOT discuss the brief or problem with each other or anyone else before the conclusion of final oral arguments for Group 2, provided, however, that competitors may discuss the brief and/or problem with members of their own group after the final brief is turned in for that particular group, but only for the limited purpose of having someone to practice their arguments against. Each competitor should develop their own argument outlines independently.
- 3) Competitors MAY NOT collaborate or collude among themselves on any part of the brief or problem before the conclusion of final oral arguments for Group 2, provided, however, that competitors may work together with members of their own group after the final brief is turned in for that particular group.
- 4) Competitors MAY NOT use the work of another and pass it off as their own.
- 5) Competitors in Group 2 MAY NOT look at the problem given to Group 1, nor may any person in Group 1 give the problem to anyone in Group 2.
- 6) Competitors MAY NOT access or attempt to access the "Judges Information" link on the Competition or TWEN website.
- 7) Competitors who observe any violation of these standards by other competitors shall report such behavior to their Group Leader or the Director.
- 8) A violation of any of these standards may constitute a violation of the Honor Code.

11. Additional Information

- 1) Each competitor is responsible for checking their UC email, as this will be the primary method of proving competitors with any updated rules or information.
 - a. The problem will be emailed to each competitor by 5:00 pm on the problem distribution date (see your group's Group Schedule for the exact date/time for each distribution).
 - b. If you do not receive the problem, it is YOUR DUTY to email jmpizza@gmail.com, and the problem will be re-sent to you.

- 2) If you have a question regarding another critical issue that the Rules do not address, or you have questions about the Rules themselves, please contact Jillian Pizza at jmpizza@gmail.com.

PLEASE NOTE: UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will any questions regarding the substance of a problem be answered. However, if you observe any critical error in the problem itself, you may submit that observation in writing to the Competition Director.

Good luck, and thanks for participating in this competition!

~Jillian Pizza

2010 Moot Court Competition Director

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