

Name of Judge:
Total Score:

Rubric for Oral Argument

Evaluate each component of the presentation on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the highest) using the following criteria:

Preparation and Organization of Main Argument

- Begins with overview of issues _____
- Gives brief summary of facts _____
- Has clear main argument that shows good grasp of legal principles _____
- Cites authorities (cases **and** legal history) _____

Answering Questions

- Shows ability to think on feet _____
- Responds well to judges/shows understanding of judges' questions _____
- Transitions smoothly between answers and prepared argument _____
- Uses questions to his/her advantage (i.e., to point out weaknesses in opponent's position) _____

Performance and Persuasiveness

- Makes eye contact _____
- Avoids reading off of prepared remarks as much as possible _____
- Uses notes effectively (i.e., to accurately quote important principles/doctrine from cases and/or historical materials) _____
- Uses advocacy tone (strongly advocating his/her side without being overly aggressive or combative) _____
- Uses proper grammar and pronunciation _____
- Uses time effectively _____
- Completes argument within allotted time _____

Courtroom Conduct

- Wears appropriate attire _____
- Avoids inappropriate use of first person and/or slang _____
- Is deferential towards the bench _____