

TEAM CODE \_\_\_\_\_

**HIGH SCHOOL APPELLATE COMPETITION  
ORAL ARGUMENT SCORE SHEET**

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**Judges:** Award points for each of the four categories, based upon the items to consider listed in each category. PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK YOUR MATH. A total of 100 points are available. In grading each argument, focus on those areas of public speaking that are not easily taught, i.e., legal analysis and persuasiveness. When complete, TOTAL your score at the bottom, sign your name, and date the form. Please submit form to the FLREA representative.

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**KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT MATTER:**

Consider:

Appropriate Introduction

(States name, party, and issue to be addressed)

Knowledge of the Record

Knowledge of Precedents

Quality of Legal Arguments

\_\_\_\_\_ / 30 pts. Max

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING:**

Consider:

Responsiveness to Questions

Use of Authority

Focus on Issues

Candid on Weak Points

\_\_\_\_\_ / 40 pts. Max

**FORENSIC SKILLS:**

Consider:

Grammar and Pronunciation

Voice

Nonverbal Gestures

\_\_\_\_\_ / 20 pts. Max

**COURTROOM DEMEANOR:**

Consider:

Professional Presence

Deference to the Court

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts. Max

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 100 pts. Max

**Judge's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES & COMMENTS: [WRITE ON BACK]**

**SCORE SHEET GUIDELINES**

<b>Appropriate Introduction</b>	Does the speaker introduce his or herself in a concise manner? Does the competitor give a broad but brief overview of the argument?
<b>Knowledge of the Record</b>	Does the competitor have a thorough knowledge of the record? Can the competitor readily identify and utilize important sections of the record?
<b>Knowledge of the Precedents</b>	Does the competitor have a thorough knowledge of the legal decisions surrounding the case? Does the competitor utilize the facts of those decisions favorably?
<b>Quality of Legal Arguments</b>	Does the competitor make clear and convincing arguments based on all the information surrounding the case? Do the arguments appear both logical and persuasive?
<b>Responsiveness to Questions</b>	Does the competitor answer questions directly or evade and avoid answering the question? Is the competitor able to sufficiently answer the question?
<b>Use of Authority</b>	Can the competitor answer questions using case law?
<b>Focus on Issues</b>	Does the competitor remain focused on the issue before the court or veer off into tangents? Does the competitor maintain the previous argument after answering a question?
<b>Candid on Weak Points</b>	Is the competitor candid about the weak points in the argument? Does the competitor sufficiently answer concerns about those points in the argument?
<b>Grammar and Pronunciation</b>	Does the competitor speak properly?
<b>Voice</b>	Does the competitor speak with appropriate volume and good inflections? Does the competitor speak clearly? Does the competitor avoid the use of verbalized pauses (“uhms” and “ers”)?
<b>Nonverbal Gestures</b>	Does the competitor use gestures effectively and appropriately? Does the competitor avoid distracting gestures, such as swaying and nervous gestures?

<b>Professional Presence</b>	Does the competitor appear to be helpful to the Court? Does the competitor use a conversational but professional tone? Does the competitor display an appropriate amount of confidence?
<b>Deference to the Court</b>	Is the competitor courteous rather than sarcastic, condescending, or resentful? Does the competitor appropriately answer questions without evading? Does the competitor cease argument when time is up or must the court remind the competitor that time is up?