



2018 Courtroom Journalist Contest Information and Rules

About the Courtroom Journalist Contest

The *Courtroom Journalist Contest* is an opportunity for high school students to compete in the mock trial program on a Journalistic level. Journalists observe trials and submit an article based on the trial. Participants can be part of a team or enter on their own. The top 8 finishers from the qualifier contests will be invited to participate in the state mock trial competition.

Participation

- ✓ **Registering with a mock trial team:** Each mock trial team may register one courtroom Journalist per team (up to three courtroom Journalists per school). A team does not have to have a named Journalist at the time of registration, but when the team submits their roster, they must list the Journalist. A Journalist who participates with a team will still compete solely on their own efforts and will NOT be considered as part of their school's team in terms of advancing or not advancing to the state competition.
- ✓ **Registering without a mock trial team:** Up to three students may compete from any high school, even if the school does not have a mock trial team.
- ✓ **Advancement to the state competition:** Eight Journalists will advance to the state competition.

Important Dates

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- ✓ **Friday September 1, 2017:** 2018 Registration Begins
- ✓ **Sunday, December 31, 2017:** Registration Deadline
- ✓ **Friday and Saturday, February 16-17, 2018:** Qualifier Competition in Albuquerque
- ✓ **Friday and Saturday, March 16-17, 2018:** State Competition in Albuquerque

Procedures

- ✓ Students from schools who do not have a mock trial team must complete and submit the entry form and have a teacher sponsor from their school. Journalists who are competing as part of mock trial team **DO NOT** need to submit a separate entry form.
- ✓ Up to three students per school from schools that do not have a mock trial team may enter the *Courtroom Journalist Contest* by filling out and submitting the entry form which can be found on the CCV website www.civicvalues.org. **There is a \$50 fee per student who are not part of a mock trial team.**
- ✓ Once submitted, students will receive a confirmation of their entry along with a *Code of Ethical Conduct Form* and a permission slip authorizing the reproduction and publication of their work that must be signed and returned prior to the date of the qualifier competition in which they choose to participate.



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- ✓ All submissions become the property of the Center for Civic Values and may be used for any purposes deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to reproduction and dissemination.
- ✓ Journalists must supply their own materials. As it is not likely that Journalists will have a hard surface to write on, it's suggested they carry a clip board.
- ✓ On the day of the competition, Journalists who are not part of a mock trial team will check in with mock trial staff and receive an Journalist's badge that they must wear during the day. Journalists who are part of a mock trial team will have their badge in the team packet.
- ✓ Those Journalists competing with a team, will be with their teams during competition rounds. Those Journalists not competing with a team will be randomly assigned to a court room.

Rules

Qualifiers:

- ✓ All participants must write their articles based on their team's round 1 or round 2.
- ✓ At the beginning of round 1 and round 2, Journalists will introduce themselves to the court and then seat themselves in the front row of the gallery.
- ✓ Once seated, Journalists may not have contact with anyone else. Journalists must create their articles completely on their own.
- ✓ All participants must complete a permission slip authorizing the publication or reprinting of their Journalists Contest submission for educational purposes. No financial compensation will be awarded.
- ✓ **Typed submissions must be a 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced, and a page limit of two pages. Any articles over two pages will not be read.**
- ✓ Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial. Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted.
- ✓ Label your article with your code only.
- ✓ Articles must be brought to the CCV staff before the start of round 3.
- ✓ The submissions will be judged during round 3.

State:

- ✓ All participants must write their articles based on their team's round 1.
- ✓ At the beginning of round 1, Journalists will introduce themselves to the court and then seat themselves in the front row of the gallery.
- ✓ Once seated, Journalists may not have contact with anyone else. Journalists must create their articles completely on their own.



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- ✓ Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial. Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted.
- ✓ Label your article with your code only.
- ✓ Articles must be brought to the CCV staff before the start of round 2.
- ✓ The submissions will be judged during round 2.

For More Information

For questions, contact Kristen Leeds, Center for Civic Values, at (505) 764-9417 or kristen@civicvalues.org.