



New Mexico Middle School Mock Trial Program

Courtroom Journalist Information and Rules

About the *Courtroom Journalist Contest*

The *Courtroom Journalist Program* is an opportunity for middle school students to be part of the mock trial program on a Journalistic level. Journalists observe trials and submit an article based on the trial.

Participation

- ✓ **Registering with a mock trial team:** Each mock trial team may register one Courtroom Journalists. 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.

Important Dates

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- ✓ **Tuesday, August 15, 2023:** Registration Opens
- ✓ **Friday, November 3, 2023, at the Third Judicial and the Federal Courthouses in Las Cruces.**

Procedures

- ✓ 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.

Rules

- ✓ All participants must write their articles based on round 1 or round 2.
- ✓ At the beginning of round 1 and round 2, Journalists will be introduced to the court with the rest of the team 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 Journalist 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 trial. Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted.
- ✓ **Label your article with your name and code only.**
- ✓ Articles must be brought to the CCV staff before the start of round 3.



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✓ The submissions will be evaluated during round 3.

For More Information

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