



# New Mexico Middle School Mock Trial Program

## Courtroom Journalist Information and Rules

### **About the *Courtroom Journalist Contest***

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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**

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- ✓ **Registering with a mock trial team:** Each mock trial team may register two 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**

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Mark these dates on your calendar:

- ✓ **Tuesday, August 1, 2024:** Registration Opens
- ✓ **Friday, November 2, 2024, trials at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courthouse in Albuquerque**

### **Procedures**

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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.

### **Rules**

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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **Typed submissions must be a 12-point Times New Roman font, with two-inch margins, double-spaced, and a page limit of two pages. Any articles over two pages will not be read.**



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- ✓ 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.
  
- ✓ The submissions will be evaluated during round 3.

### **For More Information**

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