



Mock Trial Judge FAQ

What do I need to do before the mock trials?

1. Register: Complete your registration [here](#).
2. Complete Orientation: Complete the online orientation for [High School](#) or [Middle School](#).
3. Read Case Materials: Review the case materials for [High School](#) and [Middle School](#).
4. Review Rules: Each judge should be familiar with the Mock Trial Rules. The high school rules can be found [here](#). The middle school rules can be found [here](#).

If you are a presiding judge, familiarize yourself with the Modified Rules of Evidence [here](#).

How will I know where to go?

The Mock Trial Coordinator will send instructions regarding check-in locations before the trials.

How will I know which courthouse/courtroom I will be judging in?

At check-in, an announcement will be made specifying the courthouse and courtroom for each presiding judge and scoring panel.

I've never done this before, is that okay?

Yes! We provide all the training you need to judge effectively.

Can I judge if my child is participating?

No, immediate family members of participating students may not judge. However, you are welcome to watch the trials in which your child is involved.

Can I be the presiding judge?

It depends. Presiding judges are typically current or former members of the judiciary or experienced mock trial volunteers.

What if I recognize a competing student or teacher coach?

Per Rule 5.2.B, a judge must excuse themselves from a trial if they have a conflict with either team, such as helping a team prepare, being a relative or close friend of a student or coach, or any other relationship that might prevent impartial judging. Casual recognition from prior mock trials usually doesn't require disqualification unless a closer relationship exists.

Can I be a scoring judge on the same panel as my friend?

Efforts are made to balance scoring panels. First-time judges typically won't be placed on the same panel unless necessary.

Where do we go between rounds?

Lunch will be provided in the jury assembly room after rounds 1 and 3 of the high school competition and after round 2 of the middle school program. You're welcome to stay and enjoy lunch after submitting your electronic ballot. Breakfast will also be served before rounds 1 and 3 of the high school competition and before round 1 of the middle school program.

Where can I find more information?

A link to a Google Drive for judges will be sent after completion of the volunteer sign up. You may also email mocktrial@civicvalues.org with any questions you may have.

Remember: You are judging based on performance.

