

Mock Trial Journalist Contest Official Rules

- All contestants affiliated with a Mock Trial team must be enrolled at the team's school and be included in the team's roster. Independent contestants must register separately with the SCCOE.
- All participants must sign a permission slip form authorizing the publication or reprinting of their Journalism Contest submissions for educational purposes. No financial compensation will be awarded.
- Contestants affiliated with a team may only watch and report on their team's trials. Independent contestants will be assigned to a team.
- Contestants can watch and write article based on any of the first four rounds, but only one submission will be accepted.
- Contestants are not allowed to use any electronic devices during the trial.
- During the trials, all contestants must sit in the jury box in a row below the scorers. If a scorer or the presider asks you not to sit in the jury box, you may sit in the front row of spectator seating, away from witnesses.
- Please introduce yourself to the scorers (they will be sitting in the jury box) and the presider (she/he will be sitting on the bench).
- Once you are seated, you may not have any contact with anyone from your school (parents, teachers, or fellow students). You must draft your article completely independently.
- All entries must be based on what students witness at the county competition and cannot be prewritten prior to the event. All entries must be typed and turned in electronically immediately following the next day by 8:00 p.m. to hess.edtech@gmail.com. The subject line must state: 2015 JOURNALIST ENTRY –FULL NAME –HIGH SCHOOL
- 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. If submission is handwritten, article must not exceed 500 words.
- Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial.
- Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted.
- Contestants may refer to the California Mock Trial case materials, the Journalism Contest Rules and Judging criteria during the contest.
- Awards for the Journalism Contest are independent of the Mock Trial Competition; an individual may win a Journalism award regardless of the Mock Trial team's final ranking.