

# 2012

## Mock Trial



San Joaquin County Office of Education  
Mick Founts, Superintendent of Schools

## Journalism Contest Official Rules Sheet

1. All contestants must be affiliated with a participating San Joaquin County Mock Trial team and enrolled at the team's school.
2. All participants must submit the completed official courtroom Journalism Registration form and a Student Permission form to the school's Mock Trial coach no later than **January 27, 2012**.
3. All participants must promise to work independently on the contest entry.
4. Contestants may only watch and report on their team's trials.
5. All contestants are invited to watch their team's first trial during Round 1.
6. All contestants must write their articles based on their team's Round 2 trial.
7. 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.
8. 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).
9. 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.
10. All contestants will complete their articles and deliver them to their team coach by **8:00 a.m. Saturday, February 25, 2012**.
11. 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.
12. Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial.
13. Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted.
14. Contestants may refer to the California Mock Trial case materials, the Journalism Contest rules and Judging criteria during the contest.
15. Awards for the Journalism Contest are independent of the San Joaquin County Mock Trial Competition; an individual may win a Journalism award regardless of the Mock Trial team's final ranking.