

# San Joaquin County Mock Trial Program Courtroom Art Contest Official Rules

*Update 12.9.20*

## Requirements:

- All artists must be affiliated with a registered San Joaquin County team and enrolled at the team's school. Each school may enter up to 3 courtroom artists
- All artists must complete a permission slip and by submitting artwork acknowledge the following: "The San Joaquin County reserves the right to publish selected entries for no compensation in various formats, including but not limited to reproduction in Official Mock Trial materials, on the Internet and in newspapers. No financial compensation will be awarded."
- The sketch must depict an actual courtroom scene observed by the courtroom artist. Since there is no physical courtroom in a virtual competition, it is permissible to create details of a courtroom. Artists are reminded not to focus too much on the background.
- Sketch must be created and completed by the courtroom artist during the course of round 2 without the help of any source or person. You may not submit your R1 "practice" sketch for judging.
- During Round 2:
  - Introduce yourself to the attorney scorers, say your name and identify yourself as the courtroom artist during team introductions.
  - You must follow the naming rule in the virtual courtroom.
  - Once the trial has started, you may not have any contact with anyone from your school (parents, teachers, or fellow students). You must create your drawing completely independently.
- Then, the artist must submit a copy of the sketch (either a photo or scanned) within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the trial to [kwipfli@sjcoe.net](mailto:kwipfli@sjcoe.net). Only drawings submitted to Katie within that time limit will be entered in the contest.
- The art submission must be done in color.
- The drawing can be on paper of the dimensions 11" X 14" or 8.5" X 11", with a horizontal format.
- The art submission file must be labeled with the team code and student name only. No name/signature in the front of the submission is allowed.

## Tips & Ideas

- Do not sketch the drawing to look like the trial took place in a zoom meeting. Let the viewer know right away that this is a courtroom. Include one or two items (seal, flag, microphone, etc., see examples below) that convey that this is a scene from a courtroom, but **do not focus** on sketching one of the items instead of the witness on the stand.

- Artists should focus on sketching the people (facial and body expressions) involved in the trial. The artists can sketch the participants as standing or sitting.
- Remember to tell as full a story as possible. The drawing should represent what you see but also, through the drawing, tell a story.
- Find the most newsworthy action that occurred in the courtroom. Perhaps there is an “ah-ha” moment, an intriguing witness, a shocking development with which to capture the emotion of the trial. The artist must remember that this is true reporting and must be the “eyes of the court”.

