



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

## San Joaquin County Mock Trial Program Journalist Contest Official Rules

*Update 12.9.20*

### Rules/Requirements:

- ✓ All journalists must be affiliated with a registered San Joaquin County team and enrolled at the team's school. Each school may have up to 3 courtroom journalists.
- ✓ All participants must complete a permission slip authorizing the publication or reprinting of their Journalists Contest submission for educational purposes. No financial compensation will be awarded.
- ✓ All journalists **must write their articles based on their team's Round 2 trial.**
- ✓ Round 2:
  - Introduce yourself to the scorers, say your name and identify yourself as the courtroom journalist 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 team** (parents, teachers, or fellow students). You must draft your article completely independently.
- ✓ After Round 2, all journalists must type their articles. 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.
- ✓ Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial. Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted.
- ✓ Label your article with your name and team code only.
- ✓ All Journalist Contest participants will complete their article (as a WORD document or as a PDF file) and **email it to [kwipfli@sicoe.net](mailto:kwipfli@sicoe.net) by 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.**
- ✓ Journalists may refer to the California Mock Trial case materials, the Journalism Reporters Handbook, and the Judging criteria during the contest. <https://www.crf-usa.org/mock-trial-california/journalist-contest-finals.html>