



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

San Joaquin County Mock Trial Program Journalist Contest Official Rules

Update 12.15.21

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.**
- ✓ All contestants will complete their articles and deliver them to their team coach by **8:00 am, Thursday, February 17th**. Coaches will deliver to Mock Trial staff before round 3 starts.
- ✓ **Be sure to write your name/school on the back of the last page of your article.**
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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>

Procedures in Courtroom

- ✓ During the trials, all journalists should sit in the jury box in a row below the scorers.
- ✓ Please introduce yourself to the scorers (they will be sitting in the jury box) and the presiding judge.
- ✓ 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.