

2009 Drexel Law Moot Court Competition
Oral Argument Rules

Competition Information:

- 1.) The preliminary rounds of oral arguments (“preliminaries”) will be held on Saturday September 12, 2009 from 8:30am – 5:00pm. Semi-Finals and Finals will be held on Tuesday September 15, 2009 at 5:00pm
- 2.) Alternate arrangements will be not be made for competitors unable to be present at preliminaries.
- 3.) Competitors must have submitted a competition brief to compete in the preliminaries.
- 4.) Competitors will be scheduled to argue twice in the preliminaries. Each competitor will be randomly assigned a two digit number that will be used to identify the competitor for scoring purposes.
- 5.) Only the scores from the preliminaries will be used in calculating the oral argument component to be used in inviting students to join the Moot Court Board.
- 6.) The schedule will be sent via TWEN by Thursday September 10th, 2009 and subsequently posted on the Moot Court website.
- 7.) Any person interested in competing to receive an invitation to join the Moot Court Board must participate in both arguments during the preliminaries.

Argument:

- 1.) Competitors will argue for the same side that was assigned to them during the written part of the competition.
- 2.) Competitors should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to each scheduled argument.
- 3.) Competitors must remain in the designated “Competitor’s Lounge” or the Legal Research Center until 15 minutes prior to their scheduled argument, at which point they may proceed to their assigned room.
- 4.) Competitors should remain outside their assigned room until invited to come in by a member of the competition staff. Please be mindful that there may be another argument in progress – do not knock or enter the room until told to do so.
- 5.) Competitors not present outside the assigned room at the time of their scheduled argument will be disqualified.
- 6.) No less than 2 judges will be assigned to each preliminary argument.
- 7.) Each side will be given 15 minutes for argument.

- 8.) Counsel for the Petitioner may reserve no more than three (3) minutes for rebuttal, this time must be reserved at the beginning of his or her argument.
- 9.) Competitors will be warned by time cards when five (5) and (1) minutes remain in their allotted argument time, as well as when time has expired.
- 10.) Judges may at their discretion ask questions during the argument, and upon request allow competitors additional time to answer questions.
- 11.) Observers (friends, family, classmates) are welcome to watch the preliminaries. However, competitors may not watch other competitors' arguments during the preliminaries. Competition Staff reserves the right to deny entry to or remove any observers that could provide an unfair advantage or disruption to the competition.

Scoring:

- 1.) Each judge will independently assess each competitor individually based on a standardized rubric
- 2.) The following factors will be scored:
 - a. Speaking Ability
e.g. Volume, Clarity, Speed, Word Selection, Grammar, etc.
 - b. Courtroom Conduct
e.g. Attire, Deference to Bench, Temperament, etc.
 - c. Structure of Argument
e.g. Roadmap, Conclusions, Transitions, Time, etc.
 - d. Preparation/Familiarity
e.g. Case Law, Facts, Use of Notes, Understanding Issues,
 - e. Response to Questions
e.g. Response Logic, Quick Thinking, Citation to Authority
- 3.) Scores from the judges in both arguments during preliminaries will be averaged to determine a competitor's oral argument score, which will be converted into a percentage and multiplied by .6 (60%) to determine the points earned towards a position on the Moot Court Board.
- 4.) In the event of any ties the following will be used as tie breakers (in order);
 - a. Highest Average Score:
 - i. "Speaking Ability"
 - ii. "Structure of Argument"
 - iii. "Response to Questions"
 - iv. "Preparation/Familiarity"
 - v. "Courtroom Conduct"
 - b. Written Rock-Paper-Scissors (Best of 3 "throws")

- 5.) The top eight (8) scorers will be invited to argue once in the semi-final round from which the top two (2) scorers will be invited to argue once in the final round to determine the “Best Oral Advocate”.
- 6.) The semi-final and final rounds will use the same scoring rubric as the preliminaries.

General Rules:

- 1.) By participating in the preliminaries, competitors agree to be bound by these rules.
- 2.) Respectful and professional conduct is expected from judges and competitors at all times.
- 3.) Competitors should refrain from discussing specifics about the questions asked during argument with other competitors until the preliminaries have been completed.
- 4.) Any questions regarding these rules should be sent to DrexelMootCourtCompetition@gmail.com before 5:00pm August 15, 2009. Answers/Clarifications will be sent via TWEN.
- 5.) Complaints/Allegations of Infringement of these rules should be directed to a Moot Court Member immediately.
 - a. Upon receipt of a complaint the Moot Court Member will inform the Internal Vice President/Competition Chair who in consultation with the Vice-Chair and Faculty Advisor will decide if it is actionable and take any appropriate action
 - b. An appeal of that decision may be made to the Competition Committee who will render by majority vote a final decision.
- 6.) Remedies for violation of these rules may include; point deductions, disqualifications, cancellation of scores, “do-over” arguments.
- 7.) 2L invitations to the Moot Court Board will be distributed to no more than 10% of the entire 2L class based on the total number of points earned $\{(.4 \times \text{average \% of brief points}) + (.6 \times \text{average \% of oral argument points})\}$. No other factors will be considered.
- 8.) 3L invitations to join the Moot Court Board will be based on the same point allocation system – there is no maximum number of 3Ls to whom the board may extend invitations. The lowest total score that a 2L that receives an invitation to join will be the minimum score required to be earned by a 3L to be considered for membership.