

MOCK TRIAL PERFORMANCE PYRAMID

Witness Can Win or Lose a Case

Entertaining witnesses are always enjoyed by judges – and tend to score higher... You can almost never overact on the stand...

Know the Rules of Evidence and Use Them Effectively

Be ready to read a rule number to a judge who may not understand the rules as thoroughly as you do.

Off Note Presentation

Make it a good one– do it well or don't do it . Demonstrate your ability to extemporize – the more able a student is to go “off script” the better.

Be Able to Read the Judge

If a judge is ruling on objections in certain way or doesn't like a witnesses embellishment – watch for that and respond to it.

Case must have Structure

Beginning, middle and end. Must have a theme – once you have an end you can work backwards and ensure that witnesses follow through. Narrow down what you have to present and don't do anything you don't need.

Know how to Run the Courtroom

When to speak, when to stand, handling exhibits, handling a disaster with poise.
“No matter what happens – I can handle it.”
Avoid sloppy language and Ticks .
“Don't Let them See you Sweat”

Looking the Part Matters

Dress appropriately for your role.
Clothing
Poise and Demeanor

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