



Rhode Island Mock Trial Tournament

THE RI MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT IS A PRODUCTION OF RHODE ISLAND LEGAL/EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

THE 10 MOST DIFFICULT THINGS FOR TEAMS TO MASTER

1. Deciding which points are the most important to prove the elements of the case and to make sure that you do, indeed, prove them.
2. Telling clearly in the opening statement what you intend to prove, and arguing effectively in the closing argument that the facts and evidence have proved your case.
3. Introducing documentary or physical evidence.
4. Following the formality of the court, e.g. standing up when the judge enters or when addressing the judge, calling the judge "Your Honor," etc.
5. Phrasing questions on direct examination that are not leading. (Carefully review the rules of evidence and watch for this type of questioning in practice sessions.)
6. Refraining from asking so many questions on cross examination that well-made points are lost. When a witness has been contradicted or otherwise discredited, student attorneys tend to ask additional questions, which often lessens the impact of points previously made. Pointless questions should be avoided! Questions should require answers that will make only good points for the side.
7. Thinking quickly on your feet when a witness gives an unexpected answer, an attorney asks unexpected questions or makes unexpected objections, or a presiding judge decides to question an attorney or a witness.
8. Making objections and responding to objections.
9. Learning and understanding the hearsay rules and all its exceptions.
10. Refraining from reading opening statements and closing arguments.