Mock Trial Journalist Contest Rules

Rules/Requirements:

- All contestants must be affiliated with a registered Ventura County Mock Trial team and enrolled at the team’s school.
- All participants must complete the Voluntary Informed Consent Form. No financial compensation will be awarded.
- All contestants must write their articles based on their county team’s Round 1 - 3 trial.
- Round 1 - 3:
  - Introduce yourself to the scorers, say your name and identify yourself as the courtroom journalist.
  - You may sit in the jury box away from scorers if available.
  - Once you are seated, 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 3, all contestants 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 your team name only.
- All Journalist Contest participants must complete their article and email it to, DSchmer@vcoe.org, no later than Noon, Wednesday, February 26.
- Contestants may refer to the California Mock Trial case materials, the Journalism Reporters Handbook, and the Judging criteria during the contest.