

Courtroom Journalist Contest**Rules/Requirements**

(See complete rules in the 2025 Los Angeles County Team Rulebook)

All journalists must:

- ✓ be affiliated with a registered LA County Mock Trial team and enrolled at the team's school.
- ✓ pay a \$35 entry fee and register on their team's Tabroom.
- ✓ complete a waiver authorizing the publication or reprinting of their Journalists Contest submission for educational purposes. No financial compensation will be awarded.

During Round 2 (official round):

- Introduce yourself to the scorers, say your name, and identify yourself as the courtroom journalist.
- Your article must be based on what you observe during your team's Round 2 trial.
- You cannot start writing until the court is called to order by the bailiff.
- Once the trial starts, you may not have any contact with anyone (parents, teachers, students, or spectators). You must draft your article completely independently.

After Round 2:

- You must type their articles. Typed submissions must be a 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced, and may not exceed 850 words, excluding the journalist's name and team code.
- Submitted articles should be in a reporter's voice covering a criminal trial. Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted when typing their article.
- Label your article with your name and team code only.
- You will have 24 hours to complete their article and email to daisy@teachdemocracy.org by 6:00 pm on:
 - November 11th for high school entries
 - November 13th for middle school entries
- You may refer to the Los Angeles Mock Trial case materials, the Journalism Reporters Handbook, and the Judging criteria.