



Tennessee State High School Mock Trial Competition

RENDERING A VERDICT

CRIMINAL TRIAL

At the conclusion of the trial round, the court will recess for scorers to deliberate. When the scorers return to the courtroom, you may make a substantive verdict for the prosecution or the defense. However, you are not required to render a verdict, even if the teams request it.

You also may make comments to the students if time permits.

In rendering a verdict, you should NOT announce the outcome of the round as determined by the scorers or disclose the actual scores.

The Mock Trial Committee requests that you read the following language if you choose to render a verdict:

The winning team for each trial round is determined through a set of criteria involving the individual performances of each team member. Determination of each round's winning team has ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION with which side (prosecution or defense) would have prevailed in a real trial. However, had this been a REAL TRIAL, based solely upon the evidence presented today, we would render a verdict for the _____ [prosecution or defense].