

Mock Trial Witness Rubric

Name: _____

Memo: _____

NOTE: In order to generate a performance grade for witness in the trial, the following minimum requirements must be met:

1. Thoughtfully completed "Mock Trial Witness Character Design Form"
2. At least **8 minutes** testimony time on the stand **at least around a third of which** is under cross-examination.

Students who cannot earn credit as a witness will earn credit solely on the basis of the written assignment, a persuasive essay or narrative fiction work.

5	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character was carefully created to strongly reflect values, manners, knowledge and personality consistent with the trial context. • Remained consistently and convincingly in character. • Fluent, persuasive, clear, understandable. • Shows mastery of the case and materials. No errors in testimony (inconsistent with the story line). Used no notes; used no unfair assistance in testifying. Spontaneity was demonstrated in responses to questions.
	94	
4	85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character was created to reflect values, manners, knowledge and personality mostly consistent with the trial context. • Remained consistently and convincingly in character. • Fluent, persuasive, clear, understandable. • Shows understanding of the case and materials. May be some minor errors in testimony (inconsistent with the story line). Used no notes; used no unfair assistance in testifying. Spontaneity was demonstrated in responses to questions. • May be problems handling unexpected questions.
	78	
3	71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character was created to reflect values, manners, knowledge and personality mostly consistent with the trial context. • May be weakness in remaining consistently and convincingly in character. • May be problems understanding witness testimony. • Shows understanding of the case and materials. Some errors in testimony (inconsistent with the story line). Used no notes; used no unfair assistance in testifying. • May be problems handling unexpected questions.
	65	
2	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness seems mostly unprepared. • Character only weakly reflected values, manners, knowledge and personality consistent with the trial context. • Problems remaining in character. • Problems in understanding this witness testimony • Shows misunderstanding of the case and materials. Errors in testimony (inconsistent with the story line). No spontaneity was demonstrated in responses to questions.

INFORMATION

- There is no credit for tasks scoring below level 2.
- The rubric is on a five-point scale to parallel the NYS essay rubrics.

Mock Trial Witness Character Design

- Create a character **carefully** to strongly reflect values, manners, knowledge and personality consistent with the trial context.
- Remain consistently and convincingly in character when you're on the stand. Speak in a way that is fluent, persuasive, clear, understandable.
- Master the case and materials. Make no errors in testimony (inconsistent with the story line). Use no notes. Be ready to improvise where necessary in responses to questions.

Character Biographical Data

Your "real" first name: _____ Character Family Name: _____

Age: _____ Social Class: _____ Occupation: _____

Five adjectives that describe this character's personality:

Describe briefly **two** formative events in the character's life, possibly unrelated to the trial, which helped make this character who he/she is. (For trials set in historical time periods, this part should show a strong understanding of the historical period).

Formative Event #1: _____

Formative Event #2: _____

Character's Role in the Trial

What will this witness testify?

What special expertise does this witness have, if any, pertinent to the trial? _____