

Student # _____

Student News Reporter Contest

Nebraska State Bar Foudnation High School Mock Trial News Article Evaluation

Headline and Lead

5 4 3 2 1 0

- Lead is original with news value
- Fits well with the rest of the story
- Draws readers into the story
- Fair and accurate headline without bias
- Headline includes a verb

Sources/Quotations

5 4 3 2 1 0

- Presents all sides of the story
- Identifies sources and accurately attributes them
- Use quotes that cover a broad range of the topic

Organization

5 4 3 2 1 0

- Information is in descending order of importance (inverted pyramid style)
- Clean transitions and logical connections
- Uses succinct, clear paragraphs addressing one point

Focus

5 4 3 2 1 0

- Focus of the story is clean
- Good use of specific detail
- Uses descriptions of the court room and events of the trial

Writing

5 4 3 2 1 0

- Writing is strong and effective with a clear voice
- Includes a variety of sentence structures
- Using quotes effectively

AP Style/Conventions

5 4 3 2 1 0

- No errors in journalistic/AP Style
- Contains few convention errors
- Proper spelling of names, sources/attributions
- Short paragraphs, quotes stand alone

AP Style/Conventions

5 4 3 2 1 0

- Adheres to accepted legal/ethical journalistic practices
- Shows an understanding of legal terms, procedures and judicial processes
- Story is 500-600 words in length

Strengths

Suggestions

Rubric Scoring

5=Excellent

4=Good

3=Average

2=Below Average

1=Poor

0=Element is missing or does not meet the criteria

Judge _____