

ORAL ARGUMENT SCORING GUIDELINES

The purpose of these guidelines is to help you in assessing a score for each oralist. Each individual is rated in a scale of 1 to 10 (fractional scores, in increments of .5, may be given). Please use the factors listed below in evaluating each oralist. These are guidelines — not strict requirements, so award points as you deem appropriate.

A. COMMAND OF THE ISSUES

4.0	Poor	Superficial knowledge of the law and facts.
6.5	Adequate	Adequate understanding of the law and the facts but seems hesitant.
8.0	Good	Good understanding of law and facts but misses fine distinctions.
10.0	Excellent	Full understanding of law and facts including fine distinctions and subtleties.

B. ORGANIZATION AND REASONING

4.0	Poor	No organization, confusing, illogical.
6.5	Adequate	Organization but unable to follow outline or to present points.
8.0	Good	Coherent and cohesive outline and presentation of points.
10.0	Excellent	Concise and logical, cohesive outline with smooth presentation of points.

C. ABILITY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

4.0	Poor	Extremely evasive, fails to address questions, does not cite authority.
6.5	Adequate	Attempts to address question and ultimately gives some answer.
8.0	Good	Gives appropriate answer and possibly cites authority effectively, and makes a smooth transition back into argument.
10.0	Excellent	Clear and concise answers, used authority effectively, and makes a smooth transition back into argument.

D. PERSUASIVENESS

4.0	Poor	Conveyed no real belief in the position argued, read monotonously from notes.
6.5	Adequate	Adequately persuasive but overly argumentative or conversational.
8.0	Good	Persuasive, but fails to display a true sense of conviction.
10.0	Excellent	Extremely persuasive and conveys a sincere belief in the position argued.

E. DEFERENCE AND COURTROOM MANNER

4.0	Poor	Very nervous or overly casual, ignores rule of decorum and is generally inarticulate.
6.5	Adequate	Shows some signs of nervousness, poor eye contact.
8.0	Good	Good eye contact, observant of decorum, confident, calm, respectful.
10.0	Excellent	Confident, smooth, exceptional eye contact, extremely respectful.