

Widener University School of Law
Ruby R. Vale Interschool Corporate Moot Court
Competition
Brief Grading Guidelines

TEAM: _____ APPELLANT / APPELLEE

Mechanics/Formal Requirements:

COMMENTS

1 5 **10** 15 20 Punctuation and Spelling

10 15 **20** 25 30 Citations in Bluebook Form

Proper Brief Form:

0 1 **3** 5 Cover of Brief properly formatted

5 10 **15** 20 25 Questions Presented phrased favorably to party

5 **10** 15 Table of Authorities properly organized

5 10 **15** 20 25 Statement of the Case/Facts presented favorably without leaving out any material facts?

0 1 **5** 10 Is there a Conclusion?

5 **10** 15 Evaluate overall presentation, including headings and pagination of authorities in the Table of Authorities

Style of Brief:

10 15 **20** 25 30 **Clarity of Writing Style.** Is the brief clear and unambiguous? Did the writer use good word choice? Is the brief concise, or wordy and poorly edited? Is there an excessive use of quotations?

10 15 **20** 25 30 **Tone of Argument.** Is the brief argumentative without being disrespectful, sarcastic or arrogant? Watch for use of words like clearly and obviously.

Substantive Argument:

10 15 **20** 25 30 **Argument Structure (clear and concise).** Is the structure logical and indicative of the issue? Are Arguments presented in a clear and persuasive manner? Do Arguments follow logically, compelling a conclusion in the writer's favor?

5 10 15 Point Headings. Clear and effective headings which relate to the discussion which follows, and serves as a succinct summary of the argument?

10 15 20 25 30 Knowledge of the Relevant Law.
Do the authorities cited support a sound legal analysis?
Have public policy arguments been developed when appropriate?

10 15 20 25 30 Relation of Facts to Law. Has the writer applied the facts to the relevant law? Does the writer analogize his facts with those contained in the cases?

5 10 15 Persuasiveness

10 15 20 25 30 Argument Supported by Law.
Has the writer been wildly hypothetical with no support from the cases or are the arguments naturally supported by the cases cited?

0 5 10 15 Opposing Arguments Addressed. Has writer done a good job of handling cases which are unfavorable to their position?

RECOMMEND FOR BEST BRIEF?

May score up to 10 additional points _____

TOTAL SCORE: _____

(Min Score: 101 Median Score: 238 Max Score: 380)

The highlighted number is the average score.

Judges start at that score, adding or subtracting points.

These scores are guideposts to ensure fairness in grades.