

Judges' Executive Summary

1. **Use Midlands, not local or federal rules.**
2. **No sidebars.** Discuss and rule on any questions in open court so all participants learn from exchanges.
3. **Visual aids are allowed**, must be made available to opponents, but cannot be permanently damaged.
4. **Only materials provided** by AMTA may be entered into evidence.
5. **No motions except to strike and constructively exclude witnesses.** Count down for others.
6. **There is no “invention” objection.** Invention, reasonable inferences, and impeachment must be shown through cross or re-cross examination.
7. **Separate ballots when writing.** Put your name on all five pages.
8. **Use suggested scoring guide**—don't worry about being too easy or harsh. Grading consistently is most important. Score in whole numbers, not decimals or fractions.
9. **Only put scores on page 5 (blue scoring ballot)**, not pages 1-4. If you change a score, completely mark out the previous one and initial your change. Be sure you have 28 separate scores on page 5.
10. **Defense team's comments and scores** go on shaded areas of ballots.
11. **You will not have time to transfer notes from legal pad** to ballot at the end of the trial—just use the ballot and write your comments as the trial progresses.