

**Merced County Office of Education**  
**Mock Trial Courtroom Journalist Contest**

The Courtroom Journalist Contest is a competition that allows students the chance to participate in the Mock Trial Competition by experiencing a courtroom setting from the perspective of a news reporter. Contestants observe their schools' Mock Trials and submit an article depicting the courtroom drama. Students will have approximately 24 hours after the verdict is read to submit an article. Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial.

Schools may send up to three students from each participating team to the Merced County Mock Trial to participate as part of the press. The Courtroom Journalist Contest is an individual contest. The student journalist is able to win the Courtroom Journalist Competition, regardless of how their team performs at the competition.

Typed submissions must be 12 point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced, and a page limit of two pages.

Winners will be announced at the Mock Trial Awards Ceremony.

**Instructions:**

- Collect your Press Badge at check-in.
- Sit in assigned seat during your team trial.
- Introduce yourself to the scorers and the presider.
- You may not have any contact with anyone from your school (parents, teachers, or fellow students). You must draft your article completely independently.
- Deliver your article via email (pdf preferred to preserve formatting) by 4PM the day following your team trial.
- Contestants may refer to the California Mock Trial materials during the contest