

Dear Prospective Member,

Thank you for your interest in joining the University of Iowa Mock Trial Club for the 2009-2010 season! We are looking forward to another strong season and moving one step closer to our third national championship. We are excited about the new season and continuing our tradition of excellence with a new class of talented students.

Below you will find information and materials that you will need during the tryout process (September 8th, 9th, & 10th 2009). Make sure you have signed up for one of the 15 minute tryout timeslots at either an Informational Meeting or via e-mail. An online version of the timesheet should be up the weekend before the tryouts take place for you to confirm your assigned slot.

Tryout applications are due **24 hours before your tryout time**. On-line forms are available for e-submission at:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~uimt/directory/recruiting/tryout/>

Please remember that this tryout is your chance to showcase your range, creativity, speaking skills, and poise! Specific trial advocacy skills will be taught once the season starts. It is important that you demonstrate your speaking ability, logical thinking skills, and effective communication skills during your tryout.

If you have any questions or concerns about the tryout process please feel free to contact us: studorg-mocktrial@uiowa.edu

Best wishes and good luck!

Neal Schuett
Melissa Schuett
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Patrick Ralph
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Coaches

Tryout Process & Instructions

Tryout Process:

1. Please read through these instructions carefully. We presume you understand all of the instructions contained in this packet. If you have any questions please e-mail us.
2. Each tryout will last no longer than 15 minutes and will be judged by a panel comprised of our coaching staff.
3. You *must* sign up for a time slot and submit an e-application to be considered for our competitive roster.
4. Each applicant may only perform at *one* tryout.
5. Each tryout will consist of the following components:
 - a. A speech (3-5min) written and performed by the applicant
 - b. An impromptu speech (2min) performed by the applicant
 - c. A 2-3min discussion with the panel in order for us to get to know you better and your expectations for the organization and season.
 - d. A brief Q&A session re: your selections and any questions you have for the panel.
6. The tryout does not need not be memorized; however, remember that a large part of our evaluation will be based on public speaking skills. Thus, reading directly from note cards or a sheet of paper *will* adversely affect your score and your likelihood of selection.
7. The panel will meet to discuss the applicants. After this meeting we will notify all applicants by midnight on September 11th, 2009 whether or not we were able to offer them a spot on our competitive roster.
8. Practice will start September 13th, 2008. Location and time will be announced at a later date.
9. **If you need to cancel or change the date of your tryout *please e-mail our account or our president at least one hour prior* to your scheduled tryout slot – in the event that an hour's notice is not feasible, please notify us ASAP.**

Tryout Instructions:

1. Prepared Speech (3-5min)
 - a. Each applicant must write and present an *original* piece.
 - b. Subject Matter:
 - i. Select a historical or fictional figure to prosecute, sue or defend in trial
 1. **Note: The crime or tort (civil harm) you select cannot have already been a source of litigation (trial) for that individual**
 - ii. Your speech should present your case theory and facts against the individual
 - iii. Be creative!
 1. E.g.: Prosecuting Jack for stealing the golden goose from the Giant (Jack and the beanstalk); Defending Genghis Khan at the Hague for war crimes; Bringing a trespassing and nuisance suit against Spiderman for walking on an apartment building complex, etc.
2. Impromptu Speech (2min)
 - a. Each applicant will be asked to select a random topic at their tryout
 - b. The applicant will then be asked to give an impromptu speech for two minutes based on the topic selected
 - i. The applicant *must* start the speech on the topic selected (at least 30 sec), however the applicant is not prohibited from changing the topic during the speech
 - c. The applicant must *speak* for 2 minutes
3. Panel Discussion (2-3min)
 - a. Each applicant will speak with the panel about different subjects, including but not limited to:
 - i. Their e-application information
 - ii. Their interest in UIMT
 - iii. Their class schedule/availability
 - iv. Their experience with high-pressure situations and teamwork
4. Q&A Session
 - a. Each applicant may be asked questions about their speeches
 - b. This is mainly a time for the applicant to ask questions of the panel about UIMT