

AMERICAN MOOT COURT ASSOCIATION

BRIEF WRITING COMPETITION RULES

(Updated August 1, 2017)

AMCA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Any team meeting eligibility rules for the American Moot Court Association (AMCA) may participate. The Brief Writing Competition is held in conjunction with the AMCA National Tournament but is not required in order to compete in oral argument.

The AMCA Brief Writing Competition is open only to undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in a baccalaureate program. Anyone who has earned a graduate degree or is currently enrolled in a graduate program of studies, such as a J.D. program, is not eligible to enter the AMCA Brief Writing Contest.

SUMMARY OF RULES

The AMCA Brief Writing Competition shall be scored using the nine criteria summarized on the AMCA Brief Writing Evaluation Form available at the AMCA website. The problems presented for the AMCA Tournament are closed problems. Students may discuss cases outside the Table of Authorities solely to the extent that they are quoted and cited within the official cases.

All teams submitting written briefs are expected to rely upon their own research and originality of thought in preparing their briefs. Teams may not seek *any* assistance from other students, from their professors and coaches, from tutors or writing centers, or from any attorneys, law professors or other sources.

The brief shall be a written argument reflecting the issues to be decided by the Court for the problem posted at the AMCA website. A team or individual may submit only one brief: either a brief for Petitioner or a brief for Respondent.

Each team shall submit to the AMCA the original copy of its brief. The original shall be submitted electronically in PDF format. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

Each brief shall, without exception, be limited to TWENTY (20) double-spaced 8 1/2 x 11 inch pages, with printed matter (excluding page numbers) not to exceed 6 1/2 x 9 inches. The typeface/font used must be Times New Roman and 12-point font. This twenty (20) page limitation shall include only the argument itself and the conclusion

(i.e., the cover page, questions presented, table of contents, table of authorities, statement of the case, summary of the argument and appendices are not included in the twenty (20) page limit).

Except to the extent that the Rules herein are inconsistent, the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States shall govern the format of the briefs. A formal statement of jurisdiction, however, will not be required. All citations shall be complete and in the form prescribed by *A Uniform System Of Citation* (most recent edition).

A team number assigned by the AMCA will be added to each brief as it arrives.

NOTE: The name of the undergraduate college or university, the names of the team members, or the geographical region SHALL NOT appear anywhere on the brief. Briefs shall not be signed, and no information (real or fictional) serving to identify a team or team member shall appear on or within the brief itself.

Failure to conform to the provisions of these rules will result in reduction of a team's brief score by twenty points. Egregious violations will result in disqualification.

Brief Writing scores will not be considered in judging oral argument.

ATTACHMENT CERTIFYING ORIGINAL WORK

All briefs must include a statement by members of each team certifying that the brief submitted for the competition is their work alone, and that no outside assistance from attorneys or faculty was used. The certification form is to be separate from the PDF file of the brief, but must be attached to the same email as a PDF file. Briefs submitted for this competition must be original work and may not have been used, in whole or in part, in any other competition.

SERVICE OF BRIEF

Each team shall serve the original copy of its brief, to be RECEIVED by the AMCA ON OR BEFORE NOON (12:00 p.m. Eastern Time), December 14, 2017.

All briefs must be submitted electronically as a PDF file. The email address for submissions is:

pweizer@fitchburgstate.edu

No brief will be considered which is not received by noon (12:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on Thursday, December 14, 2017. Failure to file a timely brief will result in automatic disqualification from the Brief Writing competition. Briefs may not be revised or amended after they are served. No supplemental briefs will be accepted.

AMCA Brief Certification Form

This completed certification form must be submitted in the same email as your written brief, but as a separate PDF document.

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Student Certification

We, the authors of this brief, certify that we have not received any outside assistance in writing the brief that we are submitting to the AMCA Brief Writing Competition.

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

Printed name: _____ Printed name: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ School: _____

Eligibility Certification

[To be completed by your coach, pre-law advisor, or other professor or administrator at your school.]
I certify that the students listed above are currently enrolled at this college or university.

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Email: _____

School: _____

This form must be scanned and emailed as a separate PDF document along with your brief. None of this information will be shared with the judges who evaluate your brief.

Judging Criteria for the AMCA Brief Writing Competition

Scoring is based on a 100-point rating scale

Part A: maximum of 50 points

Part B: maximum of 50 points

PART A: LEGAL ANALYSIS	
Maximum of 50 points TOTAL for the following:	
Focus on relevant legal issues (15 points maximum)	
Originality and creativity (15 points maximum)	
Effective use of supporting cases and other authorities (10 points maximum)	
Effectiveness in dealing with contrary arguments and authorities (10 points maximum)	
PART B: WRITING QUALITY	
Maximum of 50 points TOTAL for the following:	
Logical organization (10 points maximum)	
Clarity in expressing arguments (10 points maximum)	
Effectiveness of writing style (10 points maximum)	
Use of proper grammar and citation form; (10 points maximum)	
Overall appearance of the brief (10 points maximum)	
PART A AND PART B COMBINED NOT TO EXCEED 100 POINTS TOTAL.	