

Top Ten Myths About Mock Trial
and the
Truth About Mock Trial Success

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Myth # 10

Mock Trial is for pre-law students.

On Prejudice and Preconceptions:

- Everyone is a prisoner of his own experiences.
No one can eliminate prejudices - just recognize them.

Edward R. Murrow



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Myth # 9

I'm not a public speaker, so mock trial is not for me.

On the Art of Argument:

Since everybody is an individual, nobody can be you. You are unique. No one can tell you how to use your time. It is yours. Your life is your own. You mold it. You make it.

~ Eleanor Roosevelt



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Myth # 8

The “best” performers should always play “lawyers.”

On Teamwork:

An old Japanese proverb says, “None of us is as smart as all of us.”



Three myths about teamwork:

10. Mock Trial is for pre-law students.

**9. I'm not a public speaker,
so mock trial is not for me.**

**8. The "best" performers
always play "lawyers."**



Myth # 7

I don't need to practice.

On Hard Work:

Do, or do not. There is no 'try.'

Jedi Master Yoda



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Myth #6:
**I can't learn anything important in
a single practice session or a
single trial.**

On Opportunity:

Life is like riding a bike. It is impossible to
maintain your balance while standing still.

- Linda Brakeall



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Myth #5

**Any score less than a perfect 10 will
kill me.**

In Response to Perfectionism and “Setbacks”:

**“The best things in life come in threes, like
friends, dreams, and memories.”**

-Unknown



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Three myths about motivation:

- 7. I don't need to practice.**
- 6. I can't learn anything important in a single practice session or a single trial.**
- 5. Any score less than a perfect 10 will kill me.**



Myth #4

I shouldn't be nervous.

On Conquering Fear:

Courage is the discovery that you may not win,
and trying when you know you can lose.

Tom Krause, teacher and coach



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Myth #3

Big schools always beat smaller schools.

On Overcoming Challenge:

The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work.

Harry Golden, writer, (1902 - 1981)



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Myth # 2

**Lawyers are supposed to be
aggressive and cutthroat;
I need to be aggressive and cutthroat
to win**



On Professionalism:

It's not the job you do,
it's how you do the job.



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Three myths about success:

- 4. I shouldn't be nervous.**
- 3. Big schools always beat smaller schools.**
- 2. Lawyers are supposed to be aggressive and cutthroat. I have to be aggressive and cutthroat to win.**



One myth about Living a Considered Life



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Myth #10

Legal argument is something only done in a courtroom. It's all just a game.

To repeat what others have said, requires education; to challenge it, requires brains.

- Mary Pettibone Poole,

A Glass Eye at a Keyhole, 1938



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