Trial Team Evaluations

NAME: _____

VERDICT: _____

[Rate from 1 (lowest) -10 (highest)]

Voir Dire	Prosecution	Defense
A. How the questions were designed to find favorable jurors.		
B. Attorneys' demeanor in asking the questions.		
C. Did the questions cause the jurors to open up and disclose significant information about themselves.		
Opening Statement		
A. Legal jargon kept to a minimum?		
B. Story told and facts painted a picture?		
C. Persuasive theme?		
D. Engage jurors in "conversation?"		
Direct Examination		
A. How well organized, comprehensible and interesting was the testimony?		
B. Method of telling the story – either chronological order or subject matter order?		
C. How well lawyer prepared the witness?		

Exhibits	Prosecution	Defense
A. Exhibits handled in a professional manner? Properly marked? You must mark own exhibits and do so with a clearly understandable method. When was the exhibit published to the jury? Was the admission suitably timed?		
B. Effective use of demonstrative evidence?		
Objections		
A. How objections were worded?		
B. Objections made without antagonizing the jury? Could the jurors see the fairness of complaint?		
C. What tactics used? Motion in limine considered – either before trial or before the witness took the stand? Or did it make more sense to do it orally?		
D. Opposing lawyer's response to objection?		
E. Rule and the purpose behind it understood?		
Cross Examination	Prosecution	Defense
A. Goals with each line of questions?		
B. Repeat of direct exam?		
C. How was tone? Did attorney get angry and yell at the witness?		
D. Were weaknesses of the story probed?		
E. Understanding of how to ask questions? Leading questions, narrow statements, and avoiding ambiguity – including one fact per question; short plain unambiguous words.		
F. Every question had a purpose?		
G. Which methods of impeachment were used, such as bias, inconsistent statements, inadequate perception or contradiction by other evidence both oral and physical?		

Rehabilitative devices		
How attorney got out of a hole. How well they responded to a successful attack.		
Closing Argument		
A. What themes were developed?		
B. How well was speech organized?		
C. How well were major issues presented?		
D. Were abstractions avoided and points made with concrete images? Talk kept moving and interesting using word pictures, creating images, using the parts of speech like metaphors, similes, analogies, stories, and illustrations?		
E. Was convincing demonstrative evidence like charts or maps created?		