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

Trina R. Alvero Iijima
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
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
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
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

Cousineau McGuire
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
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
Myth #3
Big schools always beat smaller schools.

On Overcoming Challenge:
The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work.

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.
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
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