



Writing Sample: **NEWSLETTER  
&  
NEWS RELEASE**

**PREFACE**

During Winter 2018, I took a Public Relations writing course (Writing 107P). One of the main projects in the class required students to create a four-page, newsletter of any local organizations. I choose to revolve my newsletter around the UCSB Mock Trial Team, a competitive public speaking group that execute cases produced by the American Mock Trial Association. Contents of the newsletter includes the latest clubs news, an interview with the President of the club, public speaking advice, and upcoming events. I included assignment in my portfolio to showcase my ability to integrate written and visual content.

\*NOTE: All names have been changed.





Issue 1

# THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

The Monthly Mock Trial News

March 2019

## UCSB Mockers Ranked Top 3 at UCLASSIC Invitational

UC Santa Barbara’s Mock Trial ranked third place at UCLA’s UCLASSIC tournament, improving from the Honorable Mention title in Los Angeles last year.

Brianna Hector, captain of Team A, was thrilled by UCSB’s achievement. “Last year, we weren’t even in the top ten. This year, we ranked third out of 40. We’re the biggest comeback our competitors have seen this season and they should expect us to sweep Regionals in March,” she said.

Hector not only led the team to high ranks in the tournament, but also took home the Outstanding Attorney award herself, an award given to the top-scoring attorneys voted by the judges in each round.

Christine Coleman, co-captain of Team A, and Anthony Miller, member of Team A, also took home the Outstanding Witness awards.

Daniel Subert, a judge from the final round, also praised the team. “They  
(Continued on Page 2)



UCSB Mock Trial ready to take on the first round at UCLA.

## Speaking to Success

Students in competitive public speaking organizations such as speech and debate or mock trial are better equipped to succeed academically compared to students in other clubs, according to a recent study published by the Educational Research and Reviews.

The study shows how students with a competitive speaking background learn more quickly than the average student. The reason is because practicing oratory develops organizational skills, teaches to plan ahead, think more critically, and engage with their environment, which are the cornerstones of being a successful student.

Researchers observed ten small groups debating each other: two

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## UCSB Mockers Ranked Top 3 at UCLASSIC Invitational Cont.

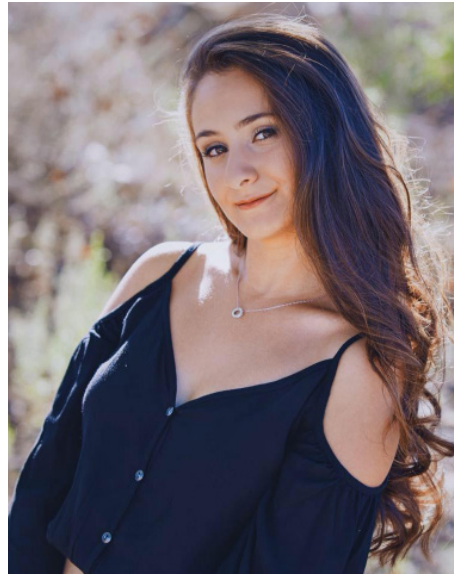
did a marvelous job. I don't think I've ever been in the presence of so many overachievers at one time," he said.

The team operated both as the defense and plaintiff side, portraying witnesses for both parties in a fictional scenario prepared by the American Mock Trial Association, the national organization in charge of creating cases and facilitating the Regionals, Opening, and Nationals competition. The fictional case alleged negligence on the part of a zookeeper's chimpanzee attacking a writer on the set of a television show. (229 words)



Anthony Miller (Left), Brianna Hector (Middle), and Christine Coleman (Right) with awards.

## From the UAE to UCSB



I want to be a lawyer to make the world a little better and UCSB has given me so many opportunities to practice just that."

When Zion Dehzardi joined mock trial in her first year at UCSB, she simply thought she'd make new friends and be exposed to collegiate-level trial procedures in a courtroom.

Instead, Dehzardi's performance at her first tournament garnered the attention of upperclassman on the team and promoted her as the captain of Team B.

Her success doesn't stop there.

Dehzardi, now a third year Political Science major, is the current President of UCSB's Mock Trial team, Attorney General of Associated Students, and member of Campus United.

"I joined these student organizations to learn advocacy and policy," she said. "I want to be a lawyer to make the world a little better and UCSB has given me so many opportunities to practice just that."

Dehzardi said her interest in activism sparked when she lived in the middle east for 13 years. She was inspired by human rights advocates such as Razan Zaytouneh and Nimah Ismail Nawwab, who addressed the discrimination and mistreatment against women, the LGBTQ+ community, and refugees.

Dehzardi was born in Amman, the capital of Jordan, to parents  
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## Speaking to Success Cont.

groups of students in debate and mock trial, and two groups of students in theater, band, and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). Students in debate and mock trial were considered to be in the “speaking” group and those in the latter were considered to be the “non-speaking” group.

After the debate, a self-assessment survey was completed by the students.

Researchers concluded that the speaking group, on average, read quicker with deeper comprehension of the topics, showed critical thinking in their arguments, and organized information in their speeches. Students in this group also self-reported higher confidence levels and more eloquent verbal skills.

Conversely, students in the non-speaking group struggled to communicate their ideas clearly and took longer to finish the assigned reading. Additionally, they self-reported higher anxiety levels and felt they did not have skills that prepared them for the debate.

After researchers reviewed the self-assessments and student-evaluations by teachers, they also found that students in competitive speaking clubs engaged more in their classes than the average student through higher participation rates and better test scores.

Students involved in competitive speaking clubs are often teased as geeks and weirdos. But this study demonstrates that they’re more successful in the classroom. (294 words)



## From the UAE to UCSB Cont.

who practice optometry. At the age of five, she moved to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates with her parents and newborn sister.

The first thing she was involved with at her new school, the Jumeriah English Speaking School, was History Club, where she learned about the historical and present social issues around the world.

Her interest in social issues and outreach developed over time and she even participated in school trips to Iran, Egypt, Israel, and Turkey.

However, when she turned 18, her parents decided to move their practice to Camarillo, California. To Dehzardi’s surprise, she adjusted to the California lifestyle easily.

At St. Bonaventure High School in Ventura, she became involved with mock trial and Associated Student Body, where she used her advocacy knowledge and leadership skills in Dubai to assimilate with students who had similar interests. She continued these activities at UCSB.

Dehzardi said she wants to go to law school after graduating, but may take time off after earning her undergraduate degree.

“I feel like a good lawyer requires technical knowledge. But a great lawyer has life experience and empathy. I want explore the world and experience life through volunteering before learning more case laws.” (376 words)

## 6 Ways to Use Mocking at Work

Mock trial's rigorous training prepares people for different work dynamics. Alumni mockers identified skills they've gained from trials. Mocking helps with:

- **Articulation.** Articulating thoughts can clarify details and help the main point get across.
- **Critical thinking.** Assessing information enables people to see the bigger picture.
- **Persuasion.** Influencing people convinces them to make appropriate decisions.
- **Conflict management.** Identifying conflict and mediating a resolution shows problem-solving abilities and leadership.
- **Presentation skills.** Effectively communicating an idea helps achieve goals.
- **Collaboration.** Teamwork improves productivity, increase efficiency, and builds relationships. (87 words)



## Alumni Advice: 4 Tips to Improve Speaking

Speaking demonstrates the ability to communicate ideas. Alumni mockers give advice on improving oratory skills:

- **Slow down.** Slowing down prevents tripping over words.
- **Enunciate.** Clarity in diction helps the audience understand the message.
- **Use your body.** Engage the audience through hand motions, pacing, and eye contact.
- **Vary your intonation.** Stress certain words or change the tone of voice to show confidence and interest in the speech. (66 words)

## Build a National Network:

Expand your circle by connecting with members, meeting alumni, and partnering with tournament hosts:

- **Join** our contact list to be updated on the latest mock news and opportunities
- **Judge or observe** local tournaments to see regional talent.
- **Coach or sponsor** a team to show community support. (47 words)

## Upcoming EVENTS:

### March 2-3, 2019, 7 am: Regionals Tournament in Fresno

UCSB Mock Trial will compete in the Regionals competition hosted by Fresno State University. Viewing is open to the public.

### April 13, 2019, 10 am: Spring Insight

Signup to audition for UCSB's Mock Trial and learn more about the organization in front of the Thunderdome during Spring Insight. Open to the public.

### April 23, 2019, 7 pm: Executive Board Elections

UCSB Mock Trial will hold executive board positions for the next school year. Open positions are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Member only. (94 words)



# UC Santa Barbara Mock Trial



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **UCSB'S MOCK TRIAL TEAM LOOKING FOR TALENTED GAUCHOS DURING SPRING INSIGHT 2019**

*UC Santa Barbara's nationally recognized Mock Trial team will hold membership tryouts at the annual university open house for the next school year.*

**Santa Barbara, February 4, 2019**—UCSB's Mock Trial team, a student-run organization committed to providing undergraduate students with pre-law resources and courtroom experiences, will hold audition signups for new members at the University's annual Spring Insight on Saturday, April 13, 2019 in front of the Thunderdome Gym at 10 am.

The team is looking for members interested in roleplaying fabricated cases as attorneys and witnesses in tournaments against top collegiate teams.

Spring Insight, a campus-wide open house showing future Gauchos the extracurricular activities UCSB offers, will showcase the Mock Trial team and their winning streak this season. Members and alumni of the team will table and give testimonies of their experiences on being a part of the team.

"Mock Trial fosters personal growth so individuals learn to be better team players, public speakers, and to think on their feet," said Zion Dehzardi, the current President of UCSB Mock Trial. "Alumni of our team have become successful lawyers, actors, and entrepreneurs. And we intend to recruit more multifaceted students to expand our connections and help us bring home the National title next year."

Students interested in becoming a member of Mock Trial can sign up at Spring Insight for an audition, ask general questions about competition and administrative expectations, and gather pre-tryout materials in preparation for the next trial season.

For more information about UCSB's Mock Trial team, contact Saehee Jong, the Public Relations Coordinator.

**About UCSB Mock Trial:**

UCSB established Mock Trial in 1998 as a chapter under the national group, the American Mock Trial Association. Mock Trial gives undergraduate students pre-law resources and courtroom experiences through intercollegiate tournaments roleplaying fabricated cases. Follow the team' success on Twitter (@UCSBmt) and Facebook (@UCSBMockTrial). (44 words).

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**Tweet:**

ATTN GAUCHOS: If u want to be a lawyer, visit Spring Insight (4/13) @ the Thunderdome & signup for Mock Trial @10am! #REALathleteswearSUITS (139 characters)