



Student Supreme Court

West Virginia HI-Y Youth in Government

Ohio-West Virginia State YMCA

Youth in Government Builds an Understanding of how state government works. Student Justices learn how the WV Supreme Court works by presenting a case.

Quick Facts . . .

The Supreme Court considers an appeal of a lower court decision.

The presiding officer of the WV Supreme Court is the Chief Justice.

Justices of the WV Supreme Court are elected by the people to 12 year terms.

Decisions of the Supreme Court are a majority vote of the Justices. These decisions final word in WV.

A case appealed to the Supreme Court is an appeal only on errors claimed to have occurred in the local trial. It is NOT a retrial of the local trial.

WV's Supreme Court has five justices including the Chief Justice.

The appellant is appealing the decision of a lower court.



The authority of the Supreme Court comes from the WV Constitution.

The appellee is supporting the decision of the lower court.

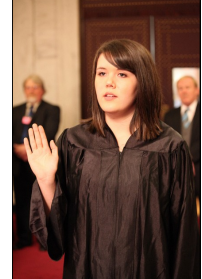
The Brief summarizes the validity or lack of validity of the lower court's decision.

An Assignment of Errors lists the mistake(s) that either the

Judge or Jury made in lower court decision.

Arguments made in an appeal describe laws or precedent cases that support the argument.

The concluding presentation to the Supreme Court summarizes arguments in the appeal and a conclusion the Supreme Court should reach.

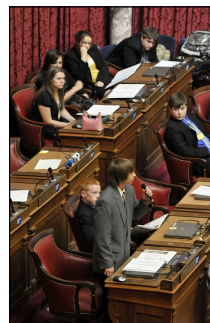


For a Successful Student Supreme Court

- Know your Case inside and out
- Have clear and concise points to make
- Remember, the Supreme Court does not retry a local case nor does the Court deal in "what if"
- Read all the Cases before YG
- Be prepared with questions when you are a Justice – just remember you are not re-trying the local trial – you are addressing any potential errors made by a local judge or jury.
- Be prepared to present your Case and to serve as a Justice on other Cases
- Know Youth in Government Judicial rules of procedure
- Help every Case receive a complete, respectful and complete hearing
- Be respectful of others in every position and situation
- Speak up – take part – make this fun, exciting and interesting
- Dress the part at the Supreme Court – be professional

Share your personality – be you

- Meet others
- Be friendly
- Go beyond your school group and make friends from other schools
- Help others
- Be polite and friendly to hotel and Capitol staff
- Take care of all Supreme Court, Capitol and hotel facilities
- Keep your hotel and meeting rooms clean
- Say thank you to Capitol and hotel staff and all who help you
- Be serious in all Court sessions – outside those enjoy friends and all the new friends you are making!



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