

## ORAL PLEADING MENTORSHIP PLAN

### OVERVIEW:

1. **Purpose:** Turn teams from draft-ready advocates into confident, judge-ready oralists by combining realistic simulations, focused corrective feedback, and measurable improvement checkpoints.
2. **Core components in each package:**
  - a. Full simulation(s) (time-bound, with judge interventions).
  - b. Structured feedback session(s) (verbal + written + annotated speaking notes).
  - c. A follow-up rehearse/retest to confirm improvements.
3. **Delivery format options:** Online
4. **Materials:** evaluation rubric, annotated speaking-note template, time management sheet, list of common judge interventions & suggested responses, authority-check checklist.
5. **What teams must prepare:** written memorials, bench list (names/roles), initial speaking notes, time allocations for each speaker, and any authorities they intend to rely on.

### 30-DAY FULL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME:

**OBJECTIVE:** Systematic improvement across argument structure, legal substance, delivery, and team coordination with iterative feedback.

#### **A. Schedule:**

1. **Week 0 (Intake):** intake call, baseline rubric scoring, team roles confirmed, submission of memorials & speaking-note drafts.
2. **Week 1:** Simulation 1 + full feedback.
3. **Week 2:** Skills workshops (see B) + targeted practice drills.
4. **Week 3:** Simulation 2 + detailed feedback + individualized coaching.
5. **Week 4:** Simulation 3 (post-corrections) + final polished rehearsal + closing summary report.

#### **B. Session Components:**

1. **Three Full-Length Oral Pleadings — each session includes:**
  - a. Pre-session checklist (5–10 minutes): confirm time allocations and who handles which issues.
  - b. Simulation run (timed exactly as competition rules): each speaker presents their allocated time.
  - c. Judge interventions: simulated bench interruptions at realistic points (types: clarification question, hostile question, fact-test, procedural).
  - d. Observers allowed to watch (optional).
  - e. Immediate short debrief (5–10 minutes).

f. Assessment delivered afterwards with numeric rubric and qualitative comments.

**2. What each simulation assesses:**

- a. Issue sequencing and signposting (did speaker frame issue clearly and signal transitions?)
- b. Legal logic and statutory interpretation (did arguments follow statutory/textual logic?)
- c. Authorities and citation handling (accuracy, relevance, and how authorities are relied upon)
- d. Responsiveness to interventions (ability to answer without losing thread)
- e. Time management (did the team finish within time, and allocate time proportionally?)
- f. Courtroom presence (eye contact, posture, voice projection).

**3. Detailed Feedback & Corrective Analysis for each simulation:**

- a. Written feedback: a report per speaker including:
  - Strengths
  - Priority corrections
  - Micro-actions / Demeanour to practice
- b. Corrective workshops (30–60 minutes, per speaker or group) that focus on:
  - Rewriting problematic openings and closing lines
  - Authority-handling drills (how to introduce and distinguish cases)
  - Answering hostile bench questions
- c. Annotated speaking-note returns: we mark where to compress, expand, or re-order.

**4. One Follow-Up / Post-Feedback Pleading:**

- a. Purpose: test adoption of corrections, check consistency, and measure score improvement.
- b. Format: same as a full simulation but with emphasis on previously identified weaknesses.
- c. Deliverable: comparative rubric showing pre/post improvement and a personalized practice plan for last-mile readiness.

**C. Add-ons:**

- 1. Individual one-on-one 30-minute coaching per main speaker (voice & presence, mock Q&A).
- 2. Rebuttal-focused mini-simulation (20–30 min) for teams that expect heavy rebuttal rounds.
- 3. Team coordination drill (handovers, in-team signals, note-sharing protocol).

**D. Deliverables:**

- 1. Three scored rubrics and consolidated improvement graph.
- 2. Annotated speaking notes and suggested final script for each speaker.
- 3. Checklist for last 48 hours before competition.
- 4. Short recorded clips of each speaker's best 60 seconds and commentary.

## **15-DAY ACCELERATED MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME**

**OBJECTIVE:** Rapid consolidation of mid-stage work — convert inconsistent drafts into reliable oral presentation through two simulations and high-impact corrections.

### **A. Schedule:**

1. Day 0: Intake + baseline rubric + submission of memorials and speaking notes.
2. Day 2–4: Workshop 1 (argument structure + authority handling).
3. Day 5: Simulation 1 + detailed feedback.
4. Day 9–11: Targeted drills (rebuttal, judge intervention practice).
5. Day 13–15: Post-feedback Simulation + closing report.

### **B. Session components:**

1. Two Regular Oral Pleadings — each:
  - a. Structured like the 30-day simulations but focused on highest-impact interventions.
  - b. Time-boxed feedback: 45–60 minutes of group + targeted individual notes.
2. **Focused High-Impact Feedback Session:**
  - a. Prioritize: (i) legal sequencing, (ii) two authority errors, (iii) one recurring delivery habit.
  - b. Provide immediate behavioural drills and a 7-day practice checklist.

### **3. One Post-Feedback Pleading:**

- a. Test adoption.
- b. Deliver short written scorecard
- c. micro-actions.

### **C. Mini-workshops included:**

1. Authority-use clinic (how to quickly locate and apply precedent during oral rounds).
2. Time compression drills (how to shorten answers while retaining legal logic).

### **D. Deliverables:**

1. Two scored rubrics
2. concise “action plan” for final days
3. annotated speaking notes.

## **7-DAY HIGH-INTENSITY CRASH PROGRAMME**

**OBJECTIVE:** Address last-minute, high-impact faults and instill confidence; perfect for teams already polished in substance.

### **A. Schedule:**

1. Day 0 (intake): 20–30 minute intake & spot assessment.
2. Day 1: Simulation + targeted feedback.
3. Day 3: Intensive drills (rebuttal, interruptions).
4. Day 6 or 7: Post-feedback rehearsal (final run).

### **B. Session components**

#### **1. One Regular Oral Pleading:**

- a. Full simulation with realistic judge interruptions.
- b. Short immediate debrief (10–15 minutes) focusing on 3 urgent fixes.

#### **2. Targeted Feedback Session:**

- a. Priority-oriented: address the “fix or fail” items (e.g., inability to answer hostile queries, time blowout).
- b. Provide a 48-hour practice plan with micro-exercises (e.g., 10 × 1-minute crisp answers; 5 × 30-second signposts).

#### **3. One Post-Feedback Pleading:**

- a. Final check: produce a short written “go-to” list for each speaker: 5 lines for opening; 3 lines for closing; 4 canned pivots for hostile questions.

### **C. Deliverables**

1. Final annotated speaking notes and a “last 24-hour” checklist.
2. Quick fixes sheet: 10-point tactical checklist.

## --- DETAILED TEACHING MODULES & DRILLS

1. Opening & Closing Mastery (45–60 minutes):
  - a. How to draft a 60–90 second opening that frames issues, stakes, and roadmap.
  - b. Closing that ties facts to remedies and anticipates judge skepticism.
  - c. Exercises: peer critique, video playback with timestamps.
2. Authority Handling Clinic (45–60 minutes):
  - a. How to introduce, summarise, distinguish, and get credit from authorities.
  - b. Quick method for handling conflicting precedent on the spot.
  - c. Practice: rapid-fire authority explanation drills.
3. Answering Hostile Questions (30–45 minutes):
  - a. 6-step model taught and practiced with live interruptions.
  - b. Drill: 20 mock hostile questions per session, with immediate coach grading.
4. Time Management & Note Protocol (30 minutes):
  - a. How to allocate time across speakers and issues.
  - b. Note-taking protocol for bench questions and rebuttal prompts.
5. Team Coordination & Handover (30 minutes):
  - a. How to seamlessly pass arguments between speakers without losing thread.
  - b. Signals and scripts for last-minute switches.
6. Delivery & Presence (30–45 minutes):
  - a. Voice projection, pacing, filler-word elimination, posture, and gestures.
  - b. Short individual coaching + homework drill (record & self-review).
7. Rebuttal & Surrebuttal (30–40 minutes):
  - a. How to structure rebuttal succinctly (rule of three).
  - b. Practice: compressing rebuttal within strict time.

--- ASSESSMENT RUBRIC (used every simulation) — key metrics (0–5 scale)

1. Issue Framing & Signposting — clarity of roadmap.
2. Legal Substance & Logic — coherence and statutory/textual accuracy.
3. Use of Authorities — relevance & handling under pressure.
4. Responsiveness to Bench — directness and control of answer.
5. Time Management — adherence to allotted time.
6. Courtroom Presence — voice, posture, eye contact.
7. Team Coordination — handovers & consistency.

Scoring: numeric + qualitative comments; trend graph provided post-package.

--- SAMPLE FEEDBACK FORMAT (what team receives after each session)

1. Executive summary (one paragraph per speaker).
3. Annotated speaking notes (with “cut here” and “expand here” markers).
4. 7-day micro-practice plan (concrete, timed drills).
5. Video snippets (if recorded) with coach timestamps.

--- LOGISTICS & BEST PRACTICES (to reduce friction)

1. Recommended Team Size: limit main roster to actual oralists for focused attention.
2. Recording: all sessions recorded and securely shared for self-review.
3. Cancellation policy: 24 hours’ notice for rescheduling; missed sessions may be billed.
4. Platform tools: use shared Google Doc for speaking notes, and a simple timer app visible to coach.
5. Pre-session checklist for teams:
  - a. Confirm memorial version.
  - b. Final speak-note draft submitted 24h prior.
  - c. Bench list and time allocation table uploaded.

--- OPTIONAL ADD-ONS (monetizable)

1. One-on-one 45-minute voice & presence coaching.
2. Written memorial polishing (line edits & authority checks).

--- METRICS & REPORTING

1. Baseline and final score comparison (visual chart).
2. Top 3 improvements and top 3 persistent issues.
3. Retention tips: list of 10 drills to maintain gains during competition travel.

--- QUICK START TEMPLATES (included)

1. 60-second opening template (fill-in-the-blanks).
2. 30-second answer template for hostile questions.
3. Rebuttal outline (3 points + closing clincher).
4. Judge-question triage flowchart.

--- FINAL NOTES & RECOMMENDED PRACTICE HOURS

1. For maximum impact:
  - a. 30-day programme: recommend 4–6 hours/week of team practice + assigned micro-drills.
  - b. 15-day programme: 6–8 hours/week concentrated practice.
  - c. 7-day crash: 12–20 focused hours in the final week (ideally in bursts with rest).
2. Keep one team member as “note keeper” during rounds to log bench questions and answers for post-mortem learning.

--- CONTACT & NEXT STEPS

1. Intake form items we will request: Team name, competition name & dates, memorial version, speaker roster, and preferred format (online).

2. After intake: we send the schedule, evaluation rubric, and payment link; first session scheduled within 48 hours of intake confirmation.