



Historic City. Historic Conference.

**LSEMUN 2026**

# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

---

## Rules of Procedure

*Adapted, with permission, from London Youth Model United Nations 2026, London Youth Diplomacy Foundation.*

*Prepared for LSEMUN 2026, hosted at the London School of Economics and Political Science by the LSESU United Nations Society.*

---

27-29 March 2026



## Table of Contents

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE COURT.....	2
SECTION 2: PARTIES TO THE COURT.....	5
2.1) The Presidency/Dais .....	5
2.2) The Judgeship .....	5
2.3) Advocates.....	5
2.4) Witnesses and Victims.....	6
SECTION 3: PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS.....	7
3.1) “Written Submissions” .....	7
3.2) Rules Governing Evidence.....	7
3.3) Witness Lists .....	8
3.4) Evidentiary Agenda .....	8
SECTION 4: TRIAL PROCEEDINGS.....	10
4.1) General Order of Proceedings .....	10
4.2) Pre-Trial Consultations .....	10
4.3) Rules Governing General Oral Proceedings.....	10
4.4) Opening of the Court.....	11
4.5) Opening Statements - Counsel Statements .....	11
4.6) Body of the Case.....	11
4.7) Rebuttals.....	15
4.8) Judges’ questions.....	15
4.9) Closing Arguments.....	15
4.10) Judges’ Deliberations and Judgment Drafting.....	16
4.11) Judgment drafting .....	16
4.12) Judgment Presentation .....	17
ANNEX A: FULL LIST OF MOTIONS .....	18
ANNEX B: FULL LIST OF OBJECTIONS .....	20



## SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR THE COURT

### A) Definitions

**Applicant Counsel** - the counsel that brings the case to court

**The International Court of Justice** - The principal judicial organ of the United Nations, which provides legal opinions or advisories on legal questions submitted to it by UN member states.

**Parties or Counsels** - the applicant and the respondent counsels

**Dais** - refers to the body composed of the Director, the Deputy-Directors and the Assistant Chair (President of the Court). This term can be used interchangeably with "Chairs".

**Respondent Counsel** - here refers to the counsel of the accused, acting in the latter's defence

**State** - can refer here to multiple things:

- a) A State Member or Non-Member of the United Nations
- b) A self-proclaimed entity *de facto* exercising governmental functions, no matter whether it is recognized internationally or not.

### B) Languages of the court

The official language of the ICJ will be English. The judges and the advocates should all address the Presidency in the Court's official language; for any attempts to do otherwise, a translation will be demanded which, if not provided, will lead to the non-recognition of the address. All documents and evidence submitted to the presidency must equally be in English, however if a counsel wishes to provide a document in its original language, an English translation must be provided.

### C) General Authority of the Presidency

The Presidency will have complete control over the committee's proceedings and will have the upper hand over the maintenance of the court's order. At the Presidency's discretion, rules and proceedings may be suspended in order to clarify substantive or procedural issues.



## ***D)* Quorum and Attendance**

The Presidency may declare the court open when at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the Judges and a minimum of one advocate per counsel are present. At the beginning of each session, at the Presidency's discretion, the Presidency will call on each Judge and Advocate of Counsel, in English and in alphabetical order, to state their attendance. Each member will have to reply "present" when they are called upon. Non-members, such as witnesses and legal experts, will not be called upon.



## SECTION 2: PARTIES TO THE COURT

### 2.1) The Presidency/Dais

#### i) The Director

As the Director of the Dais, the president is to coordinate and supervise the work of the Co-Directors, the Judgeship and the Counsels. The Director (alongside the Co-Directors) will have the final say on when the Advocates will be permitted to speak.

The Director equally serves as a final authority on when to move on to the next stage of Trial proceedings, when to suspend the court, or which evidence is permitted for admission (in consultation with the Deputy). The Director of the Dais will also act as the intermediary during Judges' deliberations.

The Director can also at will decide to pass their roles and responsibilities to a Deputy Director in the case of temporary absence. While sitting as a substitute, the Deputy retains the Directors authority.

#### ii) Co-Directors

The Co-Directors of the Dais will work alongside the Director and will act as the intermediary assigned to each counsel. Each Co-Director will be tasked with making sure their respective counsels are as well prepared as possible for their respective legal arguments and lines of questioning. Co-Directors will not be allowed to share information between counsels in such a way that could lead to "unfair" debate.

The delegates allocated the role of President and Vice-President should note that this is purely symbolic. The debate will be moderated entirely by the Dais. All judges will hold equal footing in the court.

### 2.2) The Judgeship

Each of the Judges will represent a historical Judge; the delegates will be expected to get familiar with their judge and will each represent a member State of the UN. They will be the main mediators of debate proceedings.

Judges will be expected to make continuous notes throughout the duration of the proceedings, in order to remember how every piece of evidence is presented. For a fair, equitable and dynamic trial to occur, the Judges must remain active and focused.

### 2.3) Advocates

At the discretion of the Secretariat, the Advocates will be 3 per side. They will be referred to as "Applicant Counsel" and "Respondent Counsel" when referred to as a



council. Nonetheless, if they so wish, Advocates may refer to themselves using their real names, between themselves as during proceedings.

### **i) Applicant Council**

The Applicant Counsel is responsible for the presentation of the case to the court - the investigation and the prosecution of the responsible state. They are partly responsible for bringing the case to the ICJ.

### **ii) Respondent Counsel**

As indicated by the name, the Respondent Counsel responds to the Applicant Counsel's case. They go against any claim made by the Applicants, acting as what would be the defence in a common law court.

## **2.4) Witnesses and Victims**

Witnesses and Victims are temporary parties to the court and should only gain recognition from the Judgeship and the Counsels, once the Witness has been shown to stand by the Registrar.

Witnesses testifying during the session in person will comprise members of the Staff and Secretariat, who will be trained by the Director, the Co-Directors, and eventually the relevant Counsel to act as a well-informed Witness with a clear understanding of their stance and role.



## SECTION 3: PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS

### 3.1) “Written Submissions”

“Written Submissions” refer to the following documents (explained further in the Rules of Procedure) which may be submitted by the Counsels prior to the Trial:

- a) Full evidence lists
- b) Authorities’ bundles
- c) Witness lists

The production and submission of the latter are to follow the framework elaborated in the sections to follow.

### 3.2) Rules Governing Evidence

#### Rules Governing Real Evidence

For the intents and purposes of the ICJ at YouthMUN 2026, “Real Evidence” will be defined using four contingent properties:

- 1) **Physicality** - the evidence should be able to be represented as a physical document or transcript in order to be more easily presentable to court;
- 2) **Relevance** - the evidence presented should be relevant to the case (including its situation in place and time) and the defined jurisdiction of the court;
- 3) **Authenticity** - the evidence is to be in its original form and cannot be falsified;
- 4) **Unbiased** - the evidence should be as free as possible from external bias which may impact its validity;

Law texts and articles cannot be presented as evidence.

#### Authorities Bundles, Evidence Lists and Marking of Evidence

For the purpose of the ICJ trial at YouthMUN 2026, an Authorities Bundle is to refer to folders with all documents relevant to the present case (above all - evidence). These folders are to exist in Google Drive form and full access to the latter is to be provided to the Presidency.

Along with the folder, Counsels are required to provide the court with an Evidence List, i.e. a document containing information as to all the pieces of real evidence to be presented before the court. Each piece of evidence is to be marked in the order the Counsel wishes to introduce their evidence in accordance with the procedure.



Each piece of evidence is to be marked separately, and is to be distinguishable as the evidence of a particular Counsel. As such **the Applicant Counsel is to mark their evidence numerically** (“1,2,3...”) and **the Respondent Counsel is to mark theirs alphabetically** (“A, B, C...”). This marking is to be present on evidence lists.

### Written Evidence

Typically, the most common form of evidence, written evidence, can be anything from a quote from the UN Charter to a report by the UN Secretary General to a news article.

Advocates should not be admitting full documents that go over two pages in length. If the document admitted goes beyond that limit, the Advocates are required to extract the relevant pages and/or highlight the most relevant sections. The page before and after the highlighted section should equally be included in the submission to provide the Judgeship with sufficient context to the written statements.

### Video Evidence

Video Evidence will be allowed in the court, however it must first be approved by the President. Video Evidence will not be approved where an accessible and relevant transcript is available; the usage of video evidence should be treated as exceptional and only be requested if absolutely necessary for a Counsel’s argument - videos found to be irrelevant will not be played out. Graphic videos will not be approved under the Sensitive Topics Policy.

### Audio Recorded Evidence

Audio Recorded evidence will follow the same rules as Video Evidence, and will thereby require prior approval from the President. However, Audio Recorded evidence is even less likely to be approved and will most likely be asked by the Presidency to be transcribed by the Counsel and admitted as written evidence.

## 3.3) Witness Lists

At the discretion of the Presidency and the YouthMUN Secretariat, each Counsel will be provided with a list of both civilian and non-civilian characters to choose their witnesses from. A biography will be provided for each civilian figure.

## 3.4) Evidentiary Agenda

The Evidentiary Agenda will be created by the end of the Pre-Trial Consultations. This will be the rough Agenda for the court for the Body of the Case (See 4.1). Each counsel will outline at which point they would like to introduce Written Evidence and Witness and whether they would like relevant witnesses to introduce evidence they are qualified to speak about. An example of an Evidentiary Agenda for one counsel can be as follows:

**Counsel A:**

1. Introduction of Evidence 1
2. Witness 1 with co-introduction of Evidence 2
3. Witness 3
4. Introduction of Evidence 3

*and so forth...*

The final Evidentiary Agenda will then be a merged version from both counsels representing a A-R-A-R type rotation.



## SECTION 4: TRIAL PROCEEDINGS

### 4.1) General Order of Proceedings

The *de facto* order of the ICJ Trial Proceedings is as follows:

- a) Pre-Trial Consultations
- b) Opening of the court
- c) Opening Statements by each Counsel (10 minutes each)
- d) Body of the case (**Evidentiary Agenda**)
  - i) Presentation of Evidence (7 minutes per piece of evidence)
  - ii) Evidence - closing arguments (3 minutes each)
  - iii) Witness testimonies (30 minutes per witness)
- e) Rebuttals (20-40 minutes)
- f) Judges' questions (maximum 3 minutes per line of questioning)
- g) Closing arguments (10 minutes each)
- h) Judges' deliberations
- i) Verdict presentation

Definition and explanation of each of the aforementioned elements can be found in the procedure. Should the court arrive at the end of the Oral Proceedings, this will signal the closure of the case, the court and the session.

### 4.2) Pre-Trial Consultations

Pre-Trial Consultations will consist of Counsels and their assigned Deputy Directors ensuring their familiarization with the case material as well as planning their arguments for the case. In parallel Judges - under supervision of the Director and President - will familiarise themselves with the facts of the case and elect a Deputy President for the first time. At the discretion of the Dais this time will last between 1 hour to 1 hour and 30 minutes.

### 4.3) Rules Governing General Oral Proceedings

It is expected that Counsels plan their speaking time equitably such that all Advocates of a Counsel may have equal time to speak, present evidence and Witnesses. Judges should also not interrupt advocates when speaking with questions, unless there is a point of personal privilege related to audibility. There will



be opportunities for Judges to ask questions about evidence or Witnesses, as well as general questions at designated points throughout Oral Proceedings.

#### 4.4) Opening of the Court

After making sure that all Advocates and Judges are present, the President will declare the court open with the following statement:

*Please be seated, the sitting is open.*

Judges and Advocates should remain standing before they are asked to be seated.

#### 4.5) Opening Statements - Counsel Statements

Before Applicants proceed with presentation of evidence, both sides can make their opening statements. The President may call upon the parties as such:

*“At this time, I would like to give the floor to the Applicants/Respondents to present their Opening Statements to the court”*

It is advised that Opening Statements consist of a brief outline of the Counsel’s case, but only slightly touching upon arguments that the latter wishes to present during the Body of the Case. Evidence or any concrete general details are not to be introduced at this time.

Each counsel will be allocated **10 minutes** of speaking time. At their discretion, the Advocates may choose to split that time between themselves, or allocate one speaker.

#### 4.6) Body of the Case

Each party is entitled to present evidence<sup>1</sup> and or witnesses. Evidence/Witnesses are to be presented in a A-R-A-R order (meaning that Counsels will take turns presenting one piece of their evidence) - as in all procedures, Applicant counsel presents first. The presentation of Evidence/Witnesses will follow the following timeframes:

##### **Evidence:**

1. Presentation of evidence by the presenting Counsel<sup>2</sup> (**5 minutes**)
2. Cross-examination of the evidence by the opposing Counsel (**2 minutes**)
3. Judges’ Questions (**3 minutes of questions** from the judgeship as a whole)

---

<sup>1</sup> For rules governing Evidence lists, please see section 3.3

<sup>2</sup> This (along with point v.) includes the raising of objections



4. Voting on objections

**Witnesses (not co-introducing Evidence):**

1. Witness Statement (**1 minute approx.**)
2. Examination of witness by the presenting Counsel (**7 minutes**)
3. Cross-examination of witness by the opposing Counsel (**7 minutes**)
4. Examination of witness by the Judgeship (**7 minutes**)

**Witnesses (co-introducing Evidence):**

1. Witness Statement (**1 minute approx.**)
2. Presentation of Evidence by Witness (**3 minutes approx.**)
3. Examination of witness and evidence by the presenting Counsel (**9 minutes**)
4. Cross-examination of witness by the opposing Counsel (**8 minutes**)
5. Examination of witness by the Judgeship (**8 minutes**)
6. Voting on objections (as it pertains to **the introduced piece of evidence**)

If a motion for further examination is approved of by the President, then only the Counsels will re-examine the Witness:

- 1) Re-examination by Witness' Counsel (**3 minutes**)
- 2) Re-Cross-Examination by Opposing Counsel (**3 minutes**)

### **Presentation and referencing of real evidence**

Each counsel will have a document on which their evidence will be recorded and numbered.<sup>3</sup> After any piece of evidence is announced and before it is presented, the President will make sure that the Judgeship has been introduced to it and can access it.

Advocates should do as follows when presenting evidence:

- i) Announce the marked piece of evidence as follows:

*The [Counsel] would now like to introduce the piece of evidence marked [number or letter].*

---

<sup>3</sup> See the section 3.3



- ii) Opposing Counsel will be asked if they have any objections. For any Objection raised, grounds should be stated or else will be asked for (see ANNEX B for full list);
- iii) The presenting counsel will now have **5 minutes** to present their piece of evidence, give a brief overview of its contents and relevance to the case, addressing, if applicable, any objections raised by the opposing Counsel. Objections will be voted on by the judges following the cross-examination of the Evidence.

### Objections<sup>4</sup> to Real Evidence

Objections may only be raised during the introduction/admission of Real Evidence, or alternatively, during the examination/cross-examination of Witnesses, as such:

*“Objection on the basis of [type of Objection]”*

This objection will be noted by the Presidency.

More than one Objection may be raised.

All objections will be voted on straight after they are presented and (in necessary) time will be given for rebuttal to the objection by the opposing counsel. All judges are required to vote and no abstentions will be entertained.

Advocates may be granted time to explain their objections or opposition to one. This cannot be motioned by advocates, only by Judges and at the discretion of the President.

### Cross-examination and Judges’ questioning

Opposing counsel will be granted **2 minutes** to rebut the piece of evidence presented and raise any additional objections.

Once cross-examination is over, the President may ask judges if they have any questions to the presenting counsel before voting on raised objections. A maximum of **3 minutes** will be granted for Judges’ questioning per piece of evidence, though follow-up questions can be entertained in case the President judges that questions have not been answered.

Objections will then be voted upon. To vote in favour of the objection, is to vote against the admission of the piece of evidence presented. As such, if the objection passes, the evidence will no longer be taken into consideration during judgment deliberations.

---

<sup>4</sup> The full list of objections can be found in Annex B of the Rules of Procedure



## Rules governing the Testimony of a Witness

Witnesses can be both expert and not. The term “Witness” will procedurally refer to both expert and non-expert Witnesses, however a distinction must be made between them during examination. Both expert and non-expert Witnesses must have three characteristics for their testimony to be considered pertinent:

- a) **Existence** - The Witness should exist in real life outside of the simulation of the ICJ. An exception can be made for civilian figures, such as but not limited to, victims or parents of victims. Advocates are advised to approach the Presidency before Trial proceedings in case they are unsure of the pertinency of their Witness on those grounds;
- b) **Relevance**- The Witness should have testimony to offer that is within the jurisdiction of the court and relevant to the case.
- c) **Qualification** - in the case of an expert Witness, the latter should have sufficient qualification and professional expertise to speak on the case. In case of a non-expert Witness, they should have been present as a witness at an event pertinent to the case.

Witness lists must be provided to the President at the start of Court Proceedings. Witnesses that are not stated on each Counsel’s respective list are not to be accepted to testify. A Witness who has not yet testified shall not be present when the testimony of another Witness is given.

Before their testimony, every Witness shall make the following solemn declaration:

*“I solemnly declare that I will speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”*

## Rules governing the Examination of a Witness

After both Counsels have finished presenting their real evidence, the President will begin to pull Witnesses for Examination. The Council whose Witness list the Witness belongs to will be the first to examine the Witness (eg. if the Witness is on the Applicant's Witness list, the Applicant counsel will begin with the Examination). A Witness may object to making a statement which might incriminate them.

## Rules governing the Judges’ Questions of a Witness

Judges’ questions are to be moderated by the President, who will select Judges one by one to ask questions to the Witness. The questions of the Judges are not open to



objections and follow-up questions may be granted at the discretion of the President. All questions are to address solely what has been stated by Witness.

#### 4.7) Rebuttals

Once there are no more pieces of evidence nor Witnesses to be presented (and thus, the Body of the Case is over), the court will move into Rebuttals. The Rebuttals will be moderated by the President or the Deputy, to allow the Registrar and the President to prepare the Judges for their questioning, assigning them evidence.

During this time, the Counsels will rebut previous arguments made during the body of the case. For each rebutted argument, the opposing Counsel will have time for a short response before having the opportunity to rebut an argument themselves. The authority to decide the period of time for which a counsel is granted the right to speak is the President or the Deputy.

Rebuttals should last between **20 and 40 minutes**, and can be called to closure at any point by the President.

No evidence is to be introduced during this time, though Witness statements collected during Witness examinations may be referenced.

#### 4.8) Judges' questions

Each judge will be assigned pieces of evidence to ask questions on - the Judges are therefore advised to ask for deliberations before moving on to the questioning, to make sure all relevant questions are asked. The questions should aim to clarify issues, facts and points of law.

The Deputy President will monitor the time and will decide when to close the Judges' Question session based on whether there are any questions left and/or whether the time presses to move on to the next section of Oral Proceedings.

#### 4.9) Closing Arguments

After all the evidence has been admitted, the Counsels will be invited to present their Closing Arguments - as per any procedure, the Applicant Counsel will go first. Each Counsel will be granted **10 minutes**, with the Applicant counsel given the option to split their time in half, speaking for **5 minutes**, before the Respondent Counsel, and **5 minutes** after. As with the opening statements, Advocates are more than welcome to split their time between themselves however they deem appropriate. However, once the Counsel has decided between themselves the nature of the split, they are expected to inform the Presidency, so that they can individually be called up to present their remarks and their time - monitored.



At this point, no more evidence is to be presented to the court, and reference should only be made to admitted pieces of evidence. During Closing Arguments each Counsel should aim to sum up its case and tie up any evidence and legal elements. They may equally state their **prayer**, i.e. what they wish from the Judgement. At this point in the trial, the advocates should also feel at liberty to expand on their case, insinuating what evidence might suggest and hint at the failures of the opposing Counsel's arguments.

#### 4.10) Judges' Deliberations and Judgment Drafting

Judges should talk freely between themselves during deliberations; however, the President may choose to guide them in conversation or halt unmoderated discussion to expedite deliberations.

At the deliberations' end, each judge must vote on whether to grant either the applicant's or the respondent's prayer elaborated in the closing arguments. If the vote is a tie, then the President's vote will act as a tiebreaker.

#### 4.11) Judgment drafting

Judges will be assigned **up to 30 minutes** (an extension may be granted up to 45 minutes if time is allowing) to create a Judgement and supplementary opinions.

Opinions can be split into four categories:

1. "Majority opinion" - the position with the most values;
2. "Separate but Concurring Opinion" - Agreed with the majority opinion, but for different reasons;
3. "Dissenting opinion" - Disagreeing with the majority opinion;
4. "Separate, but dissenting opinion" - Disagrees with the majority opinion but for different reasons.

During Judgement drafting, Judges should decide which opinion they would like to represent and form groups to focus on writing those specific opinions, with the majority opinion representing the largest group, and the other types representing anything less than the majority opinion or none at all. If a judge believes their opinion to be too dissonant to all the other opinions, they may opt to draft their own opinion themselves.

Once all the documents are finalized, the advocates will be invited back into the court to hear the Judgment and Opinions read out.



#### **4.12) Judgment Presentation**

At the end of the Proceedings, the President will invite back into the chamber the advocates from both Counsels for the presentation of the Judgement. The Deputy President will read out the Judgment in full barring written opinions, of which they will nominate one of those Judges representing that opinion to read it out loud.



## **ANNEX A: FULL LIST OF MOTIONS**

### **A) Point of Personal Privilege**

Point of Personal Privilege may be raised in cases where a Delegate experiences discomfort. This includes but is not limited to requests to leave the committee room, not hearing a speaker properly, not seeing material well, and medical emergencies. This point may interrupt a speaker only if it concerns the audibility of the speech or in case of a medical emergency.

### **B) Point of Order**

A Point of Order may be raised by a Delegate to draw attention to a misuse of Parliamentary Procedure, by either the Dais or another Delegate. This point cannot be raised to discuss the substance of any speech, nor interrupt a speaker at any point. Once the point is granted, the Dais will verify its validity according to the present Rules of Procedure.

### **C) Point of Parliamentary Inquiry**

A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may be raised by a Delegate when unsure about the Rules of Procedure. Such a point can never relate to the substance of the debate, but rather the form and its framework. It may never interrupt a speaker.

### **D) Point of Information to the Presidency**

A Point of Information may be raised by a Delegate to the Dais regarding matters that do not relate to Parliamentary Proceedings. Such include, but are not limited to, queries related to the content of the debate, logistics administrative information, and scheduling. Such a point should always be phrased as a question.

Within the court, a Judge may raise a point of information to an Advocate at any point during Oral Proceedings. This will be monitored by the Dais so that it is not disruptive. Judges should raise their placards vertically and wait to be recognized.

### **E) Motion to add to the Evidence List**

Raised by an Advocate in case they would like to introduce another piece of Evidence to their already submitted evidence list.

### **F) Motion to censor an Advocate**

This motion must be raised by a Judge if they feel that an Advocate is being too belligerent, too aggressive or is repeatedly fielding unnecessary objections. This must pass unanimously with all Judges voting. The advocate will be censored for a



maximum of 30 minutes, a time to be decided by the President. The President reserves the right to not entertain this motion without appeal.

#### **G) Motion to expel a Judge**

This motion may be raised by a Judge or an Advocate. It requires unanimity to pass. This motion should only be raised if the true intentions of a judge/their biases have been called into question. The judge may be allocated 2 minutes to defend themselves against this motion.

#### **H) Motion to censor a line of questioning**

This motion may be raised by either a Judge or an Advocate. It requires unanimity to pass and prevents an advocate from making statements of a specific nature, as to be defined when requesting the motion.

#### **I) Motion to move to Judge Deliberations**

During the trial, the Judges may ask for up to 20 minutes of time to deliberate between themselves any points regarding the procedures. This will be up for approval by the President, however more often than not, they cannot be refused. This motion cannot, however, be raised in the middle of a proceeding (e.g. a Counsel may not be interrupted in their presentation of evidence, however this motion may be raised once that Counsel has presented all of its pieces of evidence). If such motion is approved, the Counsels, accompanied by the Vice-President, will step out of the committee room until the time for deliberations elapses.

#### **J) Motion for further examination (Evidence & Witnesses)**

For this motion to pass when raised by one Counsel, it requires the support of the other. If both Counsels agree, the President will allocate a maximum of **3 minutes per side** for each Counsel. At the President's discretion, this motion may be rejected due to time constraints, or simply if the President deems further examination impertinent to the case.



## ANNEX B: FULL LIST OF OBJECTIONS

OBJECTION	CAN IT BE USED FOR WITNESS TESTIMONY?	CAN IT BE USED FOR REAL EVIDENCE?
Relevance	Yes	Yes
Unfair/prejudicial	Yes	Yes
Leading Question	Yes	No
Compound Question	Yes	No
Argumentative	Yes	No
Asked and Answered	Yes	No
Vague	Yes	Yes
Foundational Issues	Yes	No
Non-Responsive	Yes	No
Speculation	Yes	No
Opinion/Bias	Yes	Yes
Hearsay	Yes	Yes

### Relevance

Objections on grounds of relevance can be raised when it is believed that a piece of evidence or a witness statement has nothing of pertinence to the case and, therefore, is not important to the outcome and ruling of the case



## Unfair/Prejudicial

Such objections are raised when evidence of a witness statement may unfairly bias the Jury or Judgeship against the opposing Counsel. This objection may effectively be used on relevant evidence if it would act to bias those to whom it is presented sufficiently.

## Leading question

Leading questions can be objected to on the premise that they propose a false dichotomy to the witness during questioning. E.g. “The animal you saw was a bear, right?” Instead of correctly asking “What animal did you see?”

## Compound Question

Simply, a compound question can be defined as multiple questions strung into a single sentence during Witness questioning. It can be objected to on the grounds that it is both confusing to follow for the Witness, who may say something in error, and for the Jury or Judgeship, who might get confused in the details.

## Argumentative

Examination or Cross-Examination can be considered argumentative when the Witness is being led to provide an alternative response to the one already given. This objection is different to Asked and Answered (see below at B.2.6) in that it is a deliberate attempt to goad the Witness into providing a different answer during questioning.

## Asked and Answered

Asked and answered objections are raised when the Counsel asks a question already raised, slightly adjusting it in order to get an improved response out of a witness. Once a question is answered, all other attempts to ask it can be objected to.

## Vague

Questions can be defined as vague when it is unclear what the question asked is referring to. This can be either attributed to imprecise language or lack of context to the content of the question.

## Foundational Issues

Foundational Issues may be raised when background information is left out by witnesses, either on their own accord or through the wording of questioning. For



example, a Witness cannot testify that a document appears genuine without explaining that they have years of professional experience working with said documents.

## **Non-Responsive**

This can be used when Witnesses give answers that are completely unrelated to the line of questioning. It should be noted that this objection type is used on **Witnesses** as opposed to questioning pursued by the Advocates.

## **Speculation**

Speculation can be objectionable in two different ways. The first is if witnesses themselves assume or speculate on details they do not have the factual basis to comment on. Alternatively, it would be if an Advocate asks a question of a Witness that could only possibly be answered using speculation.

## **Opinion/Bias**

Only expert Witnesses are allowed to state their opinion to the court, provided questions asked to them are answerable within their expertise. If a non-expert Witness were to give their opinion unprompted, or prompted by an Advocate, then that would be objectionable. Same applies to an expert Witness providing an opinion on a subject belonging to a field in which they are not qualified.

## **Hearsay<sup>5</sup>**

Witnesses can only testify as to what they purport to be true, not what they heard from someone else. If a Witness tries to testify about what a non-party told them to do, or tries to enter into evidence something in writing that a non-party wrote, then the testimony or written evidence is objectionable as hearsay.

---

<sup>5</sup> Hearsay can only be applied to Real Evidence if there is a strong issue of contention as to the authorship of Evidence and as with all Procedural Objections is at the discretion of the President.