

Mock Trial Objections

An attorney may object to a question asked of a witness on the stand or the admission of an exhibit if s/he feels that it does not follow a rule of evidence. The judge is the deciding factor and will determine whether the witness' testimony or the evidence is admissible.

Leading Question:

During direct examination, attorneys must allow their witnesses to tell their own stories. They must not lead their witness through the story.

Hearsay:

Something a witness may have heard about but did not hear or see firsthand.

Irrelevant:

The information is not closely related to the case, and is therefore not important.

Calls for Opinion:

Unless the witness is an expert (such as a doctor testifying about medical issues), s/he should not give professional opinions or conclusions.

How to state your objection:

When you feel that an attorney has asked a question that breaks one of these rules, stand up and say, "Objection, your Honor" and give the rule of evidence that you feel was broken.

The opposing attorney is allowed to state why s/he feels the rule has not been broken.

Judge's possible response:

"SUSTAIN" - the judge agrees that the rule has been broken; the jury should disregard the question and the witness should not answer the question.

"OVERRULE" - the judge does not think a rule has been broken and the witness can answer the question that was asked.