Rules for International Criminal Court

The ICC can try war crimes, acts of aggression, acts of genocide, and crimes against humanity. The ICC tries individual actors who have committed these incidents against groups of people, not against states, groups or other larger amounts of groups. The ICJ, international court of justice is the regulatory agency that can try between states and other groups of actors.

We have three cases to work through over the course of the day

We have two hours per for a trial
First 10 minutes= Defense's opening statement
10 minutes= Prosecution’s opening statement
40 minutes= Defense’s presentation
40 minutes= Prosecution’s presentation
5 minutes= Defense’s closing statement
5 minutes= Prosecution’s closing statement
10 minutes= Deliberation and determination of guilt

Following this a 5-minute break for water, stretching and changing of actors

Opening Statements
During this period the prosecution and the defense will have five minutes to present their opening statements. This is a period where they will lay out their arguments for the upcoming debates. The counselors must present a story to the jury in order to set the stage for what they want to talk about.
Refer to this guide:

Presentation
This is the bulk of the debate and will last 20 minutes. In this, the council will have the chance to present their arguments for the jury. They may also call a witness in order to question the person in support. The witness must be informed prior to the conference, preferably it will be from the delegate’s own school. The delegate who acts as a witness will have limited time to be asked questions. As a result, both the prosecution and the defense will have the opportunity to question the witness. In order to present information, a powerpoint may be used, delegates should bring this information on a flash drive that will be set up prior to the conference beginning.

Closing Statement
The closing statement is the last chance for the legal counsel to summarize their arguments and make a final plea to the jury. They can speak directly to the jury in order to make their arguments. In this, they may not present any new information nor call any witnesses to the stage.

**Position Papers:** These papers should provide a review of each delegates policy regarding their opinion of the case. Thus they should be tailored as a prosecution or as a defender. For delegates who serve as jurors, they do not need to prepare a position paper for that specific case. For ICC I would like to see a position paper from each prosecutor and defender. These papers should include an overview of the lawyer's opening statement, presentation, and closing statement. Papers should be no more than two pages, one double-sided page preferred, times new roman font, 12 pt size with 1” margins.

**Objections:**

1. Argumentative Questions: An attorney shall not ask argumentative questions.
2. Lack of Proper Predicate/Foundation: Attorneys shall lay a proper foundation prior to moving the admission of evidence. After the exhibit has been offered into evidence, the exhibit may still be objected to on other grounds.
3. Assuming Facts Not in Evidence: Attorneys may not ask a question that assumes unproven facts. However, an expert witness may be asked a question based upon stated assumptions, the truth of which is reasonably supported by evidence (sometimes called a “hypothetical question”).
4. Questions Calling for Narrative or General Answer: Questions must be stated so as to call for a specific answer. (Example of improper question: “Tell us what you know about this case.”)
5. Non-Responsive Answer: A witness’ answer is objectionable if it fails to respond to the question asked.
6. Repetition: Questions designed to elicit the same testimony or evidence previously presented in its entirety are improper if merely offered as a repetition of the same testimony or evidence from the same or similar source.

Rules in another format:  