The Times/Kingsley Napley Student Advocacy Competition 2017: Shortlisting criteria

Entries will be judged on the quality of the argument and the advocacy skills of the competitor - What are we looking for?

**Overall:**
- Grasp of the range of issues, in favour and against
- Clarity of the opinion expressed
  - Plain English
  - Structure of argument
  - References and quotes correctly attributed
  - Legal principles accurately employed
- Credibility/sincerity
- Persuasiveness

**Skeleton**
- States and fairly describes the issue
- Legally and factually accurate
- Logical
  - Structure
  - Deals evenly with both sides of the argument
  - Evidences support for the position taken
- States an opinion based on the preceding information
  - Provides a solution
  - Innovation

**Presentation**
- Delivery
  - Clarity (speaks clearly & audibly)
  - Pace (pauses regularly; varies the pace & tone of delivery)
  - Control (use of emphasis)
- Presentation
  - Dressed smartly (no distractions)
  - Posture
  - Non-verbal communication
    - Good eye contact
    - Confidence (appears relaxed)
    - Maintains the listener’s attention
- Response to questions/external/unexpected events
- Impact
  - Polite
  - Constructive
  - Fair
- Assertive
  - Closes properly/politely e.g. “thank you/ those are my submissions”