

National Honor Society Induction Speech

Luke Catania

By Mr. Christopher Tamburro

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The members of our competitive mock trial team practice and refine questioning strategies for hours and hours. The best lawyer knows that these carefully worded questions lead up to that one final, intense moment that cements the case. In a cross-examination, the attorneys ask questions that are designed to solicit particular answers - usually yes - an admission or acquiescence. This is a difficult skill, but our next inductee has mastered it. Now it is time to ask him the tough questions - his turn on the stand.

- Would I be correct in saying, sir, that there are four courses offered in the history department for Advanced Placement and College credit?
- Isn't it true that by the end of your senior year, you will have taken every one of these challenging courses?
- You had to attend school in the summer to take one such class, correct? And it was so hot in Room 24 that you felt like you were in the southeast Asian jungle that was the subject of your course, correct?
- Witnesses have testified that you have even visited other history classes this year to refresh yourself and to ask and answer questions. Do you agree with this characterization?
- Is it then also correct to conclude that you must have some kind of affinity for history and the social sciences?
- So, you are admitting then, without coercion, that despite the STEM -

science/technology/engineering/mathematics - movement that you are still interested in things like law, government, and history?

- Is not true, sir, that you are in fact a friendly, helpful, and unassuming young man and academic with a contagious laugh?
- Is it not also true that you are a fierce, skilled competitor?
- Would you then admit, sir, that you represent an interesting dichotomy of qualities?
- Let me offer an example to clarify. Witnesses have stated that you have caused opposing witnesses on the stand to become so confused that they have essentially made your case for you, correct?
- And you were able to accomplish this by letting them feel comfortable, and then suddenly hitting them with the hard questions, correct?
- So, you outsmarted them, right?
- Your honor, permission to question witness with other past acts?
- Are you not a percussionist for the Marching Maroon and White?
- Isn't it also true that you are a distance runner for the track team?
- So you are content practicing for hours on end so that the groups you are part of can succeed?
- And you admit, sir, that you are a lifeguard each summer?
- And your mock trial coach describes you as an invaluable leader, brilliant mind, and above all a gentleman?
- So.. Do you seriously expect the members of this court to believe that you are such

an exceptional individual?

[OBJECTION - ARGUMENTATIVE] -

- Withdrawn - if the assistant principal stands up for him, he must have unimpeachable character. Nothing further, your honor, I believe that this case has been sufficiently proven, and if it please the court, I move that Luke Catania be immediately inducted into the National Honor Society.