

Notes for the Defense Team

Opening Statement

1. Describe the crime.
2. Describe the suspect.
3. Tell how the policeman found George Smith
4. *You might say that the policeman charged George Smith without a good reason.*
5. Describe George Smith.
6. In one sentence, explain the money found in his pocket.
7. Tell the jury that you will give them reasons for finding George Smith not guilty.

Vocabulary words:

Crime: an act that is against the law

Commit a crime: do something that is against the law

Suspect: the person who the police or witnesses think committed the crime

Guilty: legally responsible for the crime

Not Guilty: Not legally responsible for the crime

Defendant: the suspect on trial

Prosecution: the people or process of proving the suspect guilty

Defense: the people or process of proving the suspect not guilty

Vocabulary phrases:

The crime occurred at _____(*time*) OR The crime took place at _____

The crime occurred at _____(*place*) OR The crime took place at _____

The suspect did

(List what the suspect said he did.)

The suspect said

(List what your witnesses and the suspect said.)

We will prove that George Smith is not guilty of taking \$200.00 from Mr. Merrano at his gas station on March 5, _____(*year*) at 3:00 p.m.

Questioning Witnesses

Where were you when this crime took place?

What did you see? What did you hear ? What did you do?

Do you know the defendant? How do you know the defendant?

Why do you think the defendant did not commit the crime?

What else can you tell us?

Cross-Examining the Witnesses

Explain why you said _____.

You said this _____. That fact does not agree with this _____.

You have a reason to say _____. The reason is _____

How do you know the defendant?

How do you know Mr. Merrano?

Questioning Mr. Merrano

What were you doing when the crime took place? OR What were you doing when the crime occurred?

How well could you see the suspect?

How well could you hear the suspect?

Did you ever see the suspect before?

Summing Up for the Jury

1. Describe the crime in one or two sentences.
2. Tell why you believe George Smith is not guilty. Use his statements and the statements of the witnesses. Use the place and time of the crime. Use the reason George Smith had \$250 in his pocket.
3. Finish by saying: "You should find the defendant, Mr. George Smith, not guilty."