**MOCK TRIAL: OPENING STATEMENT**

**Each side will begin the case with an opening statement. This statement should do several things. It should:**

* Introduce yourself and who you are representing.
* Introduce and summarize the situation that occurred.
* Describe what your side intends to prove and to argue.
  + If you are the prosecution: that the defendant committed the crime.
  + If you are the defense: that the defendant is not guilty of the crime (either because he/she is innocent OR because there is enough doubt presented from the evidence).
* Provide a brief roadmap to the jury of where your case will go (what is the major evidence and who are the main witnesses who will help your side to prove its case?).
* Conclusion

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| **1) Introduction:** |
| “Your Honor, members of the jury, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I am representing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in this case.” |

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| **2) Brief summary of what happened (3-4 sentences):** |
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| **3) Describe what your side intends to prove (2-3 sentences):** |
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| **4) Provide a roadmap for the judge and jury to follow by giving a BRIEF overview of the evidence and witnesses who will help your case (3-5 sentences):** |
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| **5) Conclusion -- sum it all up, with a reminder of what your side intends to prove (2-3 sentences):** |
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**MOCK TRIAL: CLOSING STATEMENT**

**Each side will conclude the case with a closing statement. This statement should do several things. It should:**

* Re-introduce your case and your argument (summarizing it briefly from your opening statement).
* Summarize the evidence presented that supports your argument.
* Point out problems, weaknesses, and inconsistencies with your opponent’s arguments, witnesses, and evidence.
* Attempt to clear up any problems or issues that may hurt your side.
* Conclude by summing up what your side has (hopefully) proven and with what the jury should do.

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| **1) Re-introduce your case (2-4 sentences):** |
| Your Honor, members of the jury, today you have heard testimony about: |

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| **2) Summary of the evidence that has been presented that supports your side (3-5 sentences):** |
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| **3) Weaknesses, problems, or inconsistencies with the opponent’s case (3-4 sentences):** |
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| **4) Attempt to clear up any inconsistencies that might hurt your side (2-4 sentences):** |
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| **5) Conclusion – sum it all up, with a reminder of what your side has ideally proven (2-3 sentences):** |
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