**Mock Trial # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Lawyer/Attorney Giving Opening Statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Opening Statement: Prosecution**

**1. Purpose** To inform the jury of the nature and facts of the case. Argument, discussion of law, or

objections by defense attorney are not permitted.

**2. Include**

Name of the case

Your name

Whom you represent and who is involved

A description or story of the facts and circumstances that led to the case

What outcome you want (include the charges you are pressing)

You theory of this case

A summary of the key facts each witness will bring out in testimony and the importance of

any exhibits to be introduced.

**3. Avoid**

Too much detail. It may tire and confuse the jury.

Exaggeration and overstatement. Don’t use such phrases as “prove it to a mathematical

certainty” or “prove it absolutely beyond question.”

Argument. It violates the function of the opening statement (which is to provide the facts of

the case from your client’s viewpoint), and you risk rebuke from the bench.

Anticipating what the defense attorney will say.

**Opening Statement:**

**Mock Trial # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (this sheet is for witness to fill out)

**Name of Attorney/Lawyer Questioning this Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Direct Examination of Witness**

 **Purpose**

To show that this witness is credible, worthy, and supports your side of case.

To protect this witness from cross-examination questions that aren’t in his/her favor.

 **Suggestions**

Ask “open-ended” questions. Those usually begin with *who, what, when, where,* or *how,* or by

asking the witness to “explain” or “describe.”

Avoid complex or long-winded questions—questions should be clear and simple.

Be a “friendly guide” for the witnesses as they tell their stories. Let the witnesses be the stars.

Witnesses should write down at least 6 pre-written questions that the lawyer will ask them in direct examination. Witnesses should also include answers to these questions:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**Mock Trial # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Attorney/Lawyer Questioning this Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cross-Examination of Opponents Witness**

**Purpose**

To discredit the witness

To modify or elaborate on something they said in their direct-examination

To confuse the witness

**Suggestions**

Use narrow, leading questions that suggest an answer to the witness.

Ask questions that require “yes” or “no” answers.

Expose the existence of bias.

Don’t ask questions unless you know what kind of answer you are going to obtain.

 Avoid “fishing” too long for the answer you want.

Don’t bagger the witness, as it will be objected to and you lose your credibility with the jury.

Attorneys should write down at least 6 pre-written questions that they can ask the opposing witnesses in cross- examination. These are just ideas as you may not need to ask some of them after their direct-examination.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**Mock Trial # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Attorney Giving Opening Statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Closing Statement: Prosecution**

**1. Purpose** To summarize the main argument, highlight the main pieces of evidence in the case. You must try and persuade the judge/jury to support your perspective and rule in your favor.

**2. Include**

How the evidence supported your argument.

Specific points the opposing counsel offered that you can refute.

What you hope to gain from winning the case.

Why the judge/jury should decide in your favor.

**3. Avoid**

Repetition of facts that are not in dispute.

Exaggeration and argument.

Mentioning strong points for the prosecution’s case.

**Closing Statement:**