

CLOSING CRITIQUE FORM

A. GOOD INTRODUCTION

1. Good personal impression
2. Emphasize important point
3. Theme

B. CONCISE SUMMARY OF CASE

1. One paragraph: What happened?
2. Who did it? Why? (motive)
3. What was the result?

C. ISSUE SELECTION & ORGANIZATION

1. Talk about what is disputed, not what is undisputed
2. Fact issues first, organized chronologically
3. 90% positive, 10% negative
4. Legal issues second, organized by instructions or verdict form

D. RESOLVE ISSUES, DON'T JUST SUMMARIZE FACTS

1. Describe issue way that favors you
2. Argue common sense
3. Argue laws of physics
4. Footnote your argument with:
 - a. evidence -- exhibits, testimony
 - b. law -- text from instructions
5. Argue credibility
 - a. Why your witnesses are more credible
 - b. Why other side is weak -- less evidence, less credible witnesses
6. Illustrate your argument
 - a. Visual aids and exhibits
 - b. Literary aids and analogies
7. Don't argue policy

E. GOOD CONCLUSION

1. Summarize theory
2. Ask for specific verdict
3. How will justice be served?
4. Emphasize important point

F. PROPRIETY

1. Misstating law or facts
2. Bringing in law or facts outside case
3. Making it personal

G. REBUTTAL Complete argument