

CRITIQUE FORMS -- OPENING STATEMENTS

A. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. Clear statement of theory
2. Make good impression
3. Start strong and positive
4. Theme?

B. INTRODUCTION OF ACTORS, PLACES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

1. Simple, clear, and concentrating on main ones
2. Good word choice to name main parties, events, places
3. Brief
4. Effective use of visual aids

C. IDENTIFICATION OF DISPUTES

1. Brief and positive
2. Avoiding legal discussion

D. TELLING THE STORY

1. Simple story of facts from client's perspective
2. Avoid other side's case
3. Explain weakness briefly
4. Keep chronological
5. Effective use of exhibits and visual aids
6. Avoid exaggeration, overstatement

E. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST FOR VERDICT

1. Specific verdict request
2. Brief rhetorical flourish
3. End strong

F. PERFORMANCE NOTES

1. Minimal notes
2. How well does student move around the courtroom
3. Delivery -- voice and posture

G. ERRORS

1. Argumentative
2. Instructing the jury on the law
3. Making an improper emotional appeal
4. Referring to matters outside the evidence