



# Opening Statements

Lecture 07



# Opening Statements - 4 mins

**01**

## **Intro - Hook**

Tell us about what happened, give us a story

**02**

## **The Law**

What is the law in today's case? What do you or the other side have to prove?

**03**

## **Witnesses**

What will the jury hear from your witnesses?

**04**

## **BANGER!**

End with what the jury/judge will find at the end



# GOOD FEATURES OF AN OPENING

“First impression to the jury/judge”

## WHAT TO DO -

1. Appeal to emotions - you are telling a story
2. Be clear - you don't want them to be confused
3. Explain who you are talking about with witnesses

## WHAT NOT TO DO -

1. Be overly argumentative
2. Make promises you cannot keep
3. Saying too many legal sounding words that mean nothing to the jury
4. Striking an inappropriate tone

# Closing Arguments - 5 mins

01

## Intro - Hook

Go back to theme/  
catchphrase!

02

## The Law

Remind the jury/judge of  
the law that you had to  
cover

03

## Connect the dots

This is where you bring  
all your evidence  
together

04

## BANGER!

End with what the  
jury/judge will find  
NOW... this should be  
powerful



# GOOD FEATURES OF A CLOSING

“Last impression to the jury/judge”

- Changes with the trial... brings up specific features

## PROSECUTION

1. The law in case
2. How you have met your burden
3. What your witnesses showed
4. Major flaws of the defense

## DEFENSE

1. You have no burden
2. Prosecution especially has not met their burden
3. Tell us everything the Pros. could not do, and what they promised but DIDN'T prove
4. Introduce alternative stories and explanations

