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| **OPENING STATEMENT OUTLINE** |
| 1. Start Strong – Theme Statement   * + Get right to the point.   + Get your THEME out immediately.   + Choose the one piece of information you hope jury remember when trial is over.   + You want this section to have IMPACT.   + This could be a single sentence, a few lines or very short paragraph.   Starter Line: “Trapped in a nightmare…” |
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| 2. Tell the Full Story   * + Include all necessary facts   + Set physical scene   + Include key actions and events   + Story should be dramatic   Starter Line: “Dominque Stephens nightmare began five years ago …” |
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| 3. The Charge   * + Explain the law.   + Define each legal elements (i.e. murder, self-defense).   + Jury should now know what they must decide.   + Define and explain the burden of proof – Beyond a reasonable doubt.   Starter Line: “On that tragic night, Ms. Dominque Stephens acted in self- defense …” |
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| 4. Presentation of Evidence   * + Organize by the witnesses that you will call to the stand.   + This section should consist of three paragraphs – one for each witness.   + Each paragraph should highlight the key facts that witness will testify to in the trial and what legal elements those facts will establish.   Starter Line: “We will call Dominique Stephens to the stand. Ms. Stephens will tell you… |
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| 5. Conclusion and Request a Verdict   * + - Power End     - Bring back your Theme Statement     - End with IMPACT     - Evoke larger themes – “justice” “fairness”     - Give the jury a duty   “You can end Dominque Stephens nightmare”   * + - Conclude with a request for the verdict   “At the end of this trial we will ask you to return a verdict of not guilty.”  “A t |
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