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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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