

Guidelines for Drafting a Closing Argument

Purpose: To persuade the jurors to adopt your view of the significance of the evidence and your view of the case. Attorneys are free to **argue the merits** of their case: *“As we know from Witness A’s compelling testimony, Event X occurred, which clearly establishes who should be held responsible in this case.”*

To the jurors: You have seen and heard the factual evidence in this case. I would like to review with you the key evidence presented today.

1. Factual
Evidence

How it supports your case _____

2. Factual
Evidence

How it supports your case _____

3. Factual
Evidence

How it supports your case _____

Comments on the credibility of witnesses:

1.

2.

3.

How do the puzzle pieces of evidence and testimony fit into a compelling whole? This is your narrative of what happened. _____

Bottom Line: Why should the jurors decide in favor of your client?