



Extemporaneous Opening Statement

Purpose: To experience the courtroom aspect of criminal law and to develop extemporaneous presentation skills.

Description of Event: Each member is led to a preparation room where; they are given a short description of a criminal incident and the charge. All students will prepare an opening statement for the prosecution. They will have 45 minutes to prepare. They will then enter the “courtroom” and present their statement in front of a judge. The judge has 5 minutes to speak to the student after the student finishes their statement.

Limit: 2 student per chapter

Dress Code: Appropriate dress to include business attire, chapter uniform or other attire appropriate for the competition, or as directed by your chapter advisor.

Rules and Procedures:

1. To be eligible for the competition a student must be enrolled in a secondary public service education program, or a program completer as recognized by Florida Department of Education.
2. This is not a team event
3. Each student will be given a short description of an event
4. Students may not leave the preparation room
5. Students will have 45 minutes to prepare
6. Time limit for opening statement is 5 minutes
7. One-minute warning will be given
8. The judge will have the final decision for tie breakers
9. Competitors will be judged on style, demeanor, legal accuracy, and effectiveness (see judge’s scoring guidelines)
10. Competitors may bring only State Statue book, writing implement, paper, and note cards

Required Personnel:

1. One-time keeper
2. A judge

Facilities and Equipment:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Two rooms | 4. Paper, pens, and index cards |
| a. Preparation | 5. Case Materials |
| b. Presentation | 6. Judges score sheet |
| 2. Podium | 7. Cups and water |
| 3. Timer | |



Extemporaneous Opening Statement Scoring Guidelines

Student Name _____ Final Score _____
 School Name _____
 Judge's Name _____ Judge's Signature _____

Items Evaluated	Possible Points					Points
Introduction						
1. Of self	5	4	3	2	1	_____
2. Of case	5	4	3	2	1	_____
Organization						
1. Law	25	22	18	14	10	_____
2. Evidence	25	22	18	14	10	_____
3. Witnesses	25	22	18	14	10	_____
Delivery						
1. Delivery	5	4	3	2	1	_____
2. Grammar	5	4	3	2	1	_____
3. Pronunciation	5	4	3	2	1	_____
Legal Terms Test						Points Earned _____
Penalty Points						
1. States facts not supported by the evidence						2 _____
2. Injects opinion						2 _____
3. Puts the jury in the victim's or defendant's position						2 _____
4. Tells the jury that failing to convict will result in more crime						2 _____
5. Fabricates words or uses offensive language						2 _____
6. Mentions penalties						2 _____
7. Refers to defendant exercising right to remain silent						2 _____
8. Inappropriate dress (no tie, not in business attire)						2 _____
9. Time penalty (under 3 min, or over 5 min.)						2 _____
					Minus Penalty Points	_____
					Total points	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>



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Judge's Winner Sheet

1st Place School

Student

2nd Place School

Student

3rd Place School

Student

4th Place School

Student

5th Place School

Student