

Sample Rubric for Beginning of Opening Statement

Category/ Rating	Outstanding	Good	Weak
<p>Content</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. introduces facts 2. depicts legal issue 3. statement of claim from party's viewpoint 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. strong statement highlighting key facts 2. legal issue stands out 3. persuasively portrays party's position 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. states important facts 2. legal issue is set out 3. party's position is stated 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. includes both relevant and less relevant facts 2. legal issue is unclear 3. position is unclear
<p>Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. strategy is consistent with facts and law 2. strategy gets judge's attention and favor 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. captures and emphasizes key facts and legal issue 2. compels the judge's attention and wins judge's initial approval 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recites the important facts and legal issue. 2. gains the judge's attention and interest 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. mixes important/ unimportant facts 2. judge needs to work to understand position and has doubts about it
<p>Style/ Affect</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. eye contact 2. grasp of facts and issue, stated conversationally 3. confidence, poise and tone 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. makes eye contact with judge 2. speaks directly and thoughtfully without memorizing or reading 3. high confidence and poise, speaks clearly 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. significant eye contact 2. some reliance on reading and memorizing 3. largely confident and poised, few hesitations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. little or no eye contact 2. mostly reliant on reading or memorizing 3. little confidence or poise, quiet and hesitant