Name:

Opening Statement Preparation Form

The attorneys from both sides present their theory/story to the judge and jury as the trial begins. This is their opportunity to begin the trial with the jury hearing their version and having it foremost in their minds as testimony begins.

Write a paragraph of your side’s theory of the case:

List the themes (words and phrases) you want to weave into your opening:

List your witnesses and which facts they each will testify to:

Identify who has the burden of proof and what the burden is for this case:

Write down what your side wants the jury to do (“please decide a verdict for the plaintiff/defense”).

**Opening Statement Guide:**

Your Honor, members of the jury, my name is , and I

represent in this case. We intend to prove that

.

Witness will testify that

.

Witness will testify that

.

Witness will testify that

.

When you have heard all the facts, please decide a verdict for the .