

# TIPS FOR DELIVERING A FINAL ARGUMENT

A FINAL ARGUMENT DELIVERY TEMPLATE  
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ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CLIENT

DO NOT THANK THE JURY FOR THEIR TIME

DO NOT SAY “MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT” (if you wanted to please the court you would not have had a trial)

VISIT WITH YOUR JURY, DO NOT LECTURE THEM

IF YOU COME OFF AS ARROGANT OR A TRICKSTER, YOU WILL LOSE NO MATTER HOW SOLID YOUR CASE IS

DEFINITELY USE VISUAL AIDS—PowerPoint, diagrams, maps, something

REFER TO AND HANDLE ALL ADMITTED EXHIBITS—either they help you or discard them because they are of no relevance or miss the point or do not go to guilt

1. ASSERT YOUR CLIENT’S INNOCENCE
2. STATE YOUR THEME ONCE EARLY AND ONCE LATE
3. CONSIDER STATING YOUR THEORY
4. DO NOT DEVIATE FROM YOUR GENRE NO MATTER HOW APPEALING
5. WHAT IS NOT AT ISSUE
6. WHAT IS AT ISSUE
7. HUMANIZE YOUR CLIENT
8. WORK ON DELIVERING TWO STORIES

-A story with a moral

-The story of innocence in this case

9. MARSHALL THE FACTS

10. CONSIDER REFERENCE TO THE INSTRUCTIONS

11. BE QUICK AND SMART ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO A FOOLISH ARGUMENT OR A PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT OFFERED BY THE PROSECUTOR IN THEIR FIRST FINAL ARGUMENT

12. POSE A QUESTION FOR THE PROSECUTOR THAT HE/SHE CANNOT POSSIBLY ANSWER