

# Courtroom Scripts

Plain-language prompts for openings, introducing exhibits, objections, witness Q&A, and closings.

## Opening Statement (30–60 seconds)

- 1 "Good morning, Your Honor. My name is [Name], appearing sui juris."
- 2 "Today I'm asking for [the relief], because the key facts are [1-2 facts]."
- 3 "You'll see this in Exhibits A and B and hear it in my testimony."
- 4 "I'll be brief and stay focused on the evidence."

Tip: No argument here—just the roadmap. Keep it under a minute.

## Introduce an Exhibit

- 1 "Your Honor, I'd like to mark this as Exhibit A."
- 2 "This is [describe: e.g., an email dated 03/12/2025 from X to Y]."
- 3 "It's a fair and accurate copy that I obtained from [source]."
- 4 "Move to admit Exhibit A."

### If the other side objects:

*Hearsay:* "Offered not for the truth, but to show notice/effect on listener."

*Foundation:* "I can lay foundation: what it is, how I got it, and that it's unchanged."

*Relevance:* "It goes directly to [issue], which this court must decide."

## Common Objections (quick fire)

- 1 "Objection, relevance."
- 2 "Objection, hearsay."
- 3 "Objection, speculation."
- 4 "Objection, asked and answered."
- 5 "Objection, assumes facts not in evidence."
- 6 "Objection, lack of foundation."
- 7 "Objection, argumentative."

Say the objection, stop talking. If the judge asks, give a one-line reason.

## Direct Examination (your witness or you)

- 1 "Please state your name and role in this matter."

- 2 "What happened on [date]?"
- 3 "How do you know that?"
- 4 "What did you do next?"
- 5 "How does Exhibit A relate to that?"

Use open questions (who/what/when/where/how). Keep it chronological.

## **Cross■Examination (their witness)**

- 1 "It's true that [fact 1], correct?"
- 2 "You didn't personally observe [key event], did you?"
- 3 "Your report relies on what someone told you, right?"
- 4 "You can't identify [person/doc] without checking notes, correct?"

Use short, leading questions. One fact per question. Stop after your point is made.

## **Close (30–60 seconds)**

- 1 "The evidence shows [1-2 key facts], supported by Exhibits [A/B] and testimony."
- 2 "Under the rules, the court should grant [relief]."
- 3 "Respectfully submitted."