



Oral Argument Mapping Worksheet: First Speaker

Use this guided worksheet to help organize your oral argument as either the **first speaker** or **second speaker** for your team. This document follows the official structure outlined in the 2025-2026 Appeals Rules of Procedure.

First Speaker (Appellant/Appellee or Petitioner/Respondent)

I. INTRODUCTION

"May it please the Court. My name is _____, and I am joined by my co-counsel _____. We represent the (Appellant/Appellee/Petitioner/Respondent) in this matter."

II. BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE CASE

"In my time before the Court, I will demonstrate that _____.
My co-counsel will demonstrate that _____."

Additional Sample Phrases:

- "This case presents the issue of whether [brief summary of facts]..."
- "This is a case about [brief summary of facts]..."
- "This case raises the issue of whether [brief summary of facts]..."
- "The (Appellant/Appellee/Petitioner/Respondent) in this case [brief summary of facts]..."

III. ROADMAP OF ARGUMENT

- "In my time before the court, I will demonstrate three main reasons..."
- "Today I would like to cover three main points."
- "The decision of the lower court should be (reversed/upheld) because _____."

List your three main arguments:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



IV. MAIN ARGUMENTS

Use this space to outline your reasoning, case law, and application of facts:

Argument 1: _____

Argument 2: _____

Argument 3: _____

Key cases to cite: _____

How facts support your position: _____

V. ANSWERING QUESTIONS

- Possible questions I may get:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- Sample transitions back to the argument:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

VI. CONCLUSION

“For these reasons, the (Appellant/Appellee/Petitioner/Respondent) respectfully requests that this Court (reverse/uphold) the decision of the lower court and rule in favor of the (Appellant/Appellee/Petitioner/Respondent).”

NOTES:



Oral Argument Mapping Worksheet: Second Speaker

Use this guided worksheet to help organize your oral argument as either the **first speaker** or **second speaker** for your team. This document follows the official structure outlined in the Appeals Rules of Procedure.

Second Speaker (Appellant/Appellee or Petitioner/Respondent)

I. INTRODUCTION

"May it please the Court. My name is _____, and I too represent the (Appellant/Appellee/Petitioner/Respondent) in this case."

II. BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE CASE

"As my co-counsel has just demonstrated, the lower court (erred/ruled correctly) by _____. In my time before the Court, I will demonstrate that _____."

Optional Clarification (Respondent only): > "Before I begin my argument, I would like to clarify the following facts that the Petitioner did not give you:

_____."

III. ROADMAP OF ARGUMENT

- "In my time before the court, I will demonstrate three main reasons..."
- "Today I would like to cover three main points."
- "The decision of the lower court should be (reversed/upheld) because _____."

List your three main arguments:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

IV. MAIN ARGUMENTS

- Argument 1: _____
- Argument 2: _____
- Argument 3: _____
- Key cases to cite: _____
- How facts support your position: _____



V. ANSWERING QUESTIONS

- Possible questions I may get: _____
- Sample transitions back to argument: _____

VI. CONCLUSION

“For these reasons, the (Appellant/Appellee/Petitioner/Respondent) respectfully requests that this Court (reverse/uphold) the decision of the lower court and rule in favor of the (Appellant/Appellee/Petitioner/Respondent).”

VII. REBUTTAL (Petitioner Only)

Speaker: One team member only may give rebuttal.

- Main Respondent points I will respond to:
 1. _____
 2. _____
- Errors or misstatements I want to clarify:
 1. _____
 2. _____

Closing line example:

“For these reasons, Your Honors, we respectfully request that the trial court’s ruling be reversed.”

NOTES: