



Opening & Closing Statement Draft

OPENING STATEMENT

Let's start with the opening statement first. You'll have about 2 minutes to WOW the crowd with this.

PROBLEM – First off, you want to make them aware of the HUGE PROBLEM you are trying to fix in your bill. Your opening argument should start out with a bang. A great story or good fact will catch their attention and make them realize that the issue you're discussing is VITALLY IMPORTANT!! Then it's your job to make them think clearly but QUICKLY. Give them a couple of facts or tell them a story to make them aware of the problem.

For example: pet safety in moving vehicles., "I can't believe I never realized pets don't have to be secured when a vehicle is being operated! We need to cancel all the other bills until we solve this issue!"

YOUR PLAN – Next, you want to lay out the basic steps of your plan that will deal with this earth-shattering issue. Make a clear statement.. Then try to pick about 3-5 things that the audience needs to know to understand how your bill will do what it says it will.

Where will the money come from? Who will this affect? How will you enforce it? This is where you need some solid facts as to why your bill should become a law.

"My bill will solve the problem of animals jumping out or distracting a driver while the vehicle is being operated"



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HEAD THEM OFF AT THE PASS – You know that the other legislators are just waiting to try to bust up your bill, so think of some common arguments that people have had about your bill. Address them right now before they get a chance to say anything!

Example: You may think that it is necessary that pets be secured in a car while it is being operated, but you may find that is not the reason for many car accidents.



CLOSING STATEMENT

When everyone has asked their questions and made their statements, you will get a chance to finish discussion. You'll have 1 minute plus any time you saved from your 2 minutes of your Opening Statement to leave the audience with no doubt about passing your bill.

ADDRESS CON STATEMENTS – Since you do not get to speak during debate except to answer questions, you will want to take a minute and address the con statements brought up by other legislators. Hopefully you jotted them down during debate. Pick a couple of the biggest arguments you heard and take a minute and give rebuttal statements that are short but to the Point. Don't try to address too many of them – just a couple of biggies. If there were no real objections to your bill, try to respond to the debate somehow.

It's really important to address the major con statements, otherwise people won't know the answers to the good points your opponents made, and they probably won't vote for a bill that they think has such huge problems. Only spend a minute on it.

“Even though it may be a Constitutional right to wear a hat, our Constitution has been amended before because of important issues, and this would certainly qualify as a major issue!”

“I would like to thank the House for its tremendous support of this bill.”

CLOSING THOUGHT – The last thing you say to the audience is what they will remember the most, so you need to decide what is most important for them to think about. It's best to restate the problem and then your solution, just to recap. Don't introduce any new ideas – it just confuses people. Then you can add a dramatic closing thought. Have a conclusion you wrote beforehand that you can go right into if you run out of time.