

Handout 14
Mock Trial Script

(As the judge enters)

CLERK (hits gavel three times): All rise. (Everyone stands) The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan is now in session. The Honorable _____ presiding.

JUDGE: Please be seated. Calling the case of Singh v. Booth. Are both parties ready?

PLAINTIFF and DEFENSE ATTORNEYS: Yes your honor.

JUDGE: We will begin with the plaintiff's opening statement.

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY: May it please the court. [Opening Statement]

JUDGE: We will now hear the defendant's opening statement.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: May it please the court. [Opening Statement]

JUDGE: We will now hear the plaintiff's case. The plaintiff may call its first witness.

[The following procedure should be used for each witness for the plaintiff]

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY: The plaintiff calls _____. (Witness walks to stand).

CLERK: Please stand. Raise your right hand. Do you promise the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

WITNESS: I do.

CLERK: You may be seated.

(Plaintiff's attorney questions the witness)

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY: I have no more questions for this witness, your honor.

JUDGE: Does the defendant have any questions?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Yes, we do your honor.

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(Defendant's attorney questions the witness)

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I have no more questions for this witness, your honor.

JUDGE: Does the plaintiff have any further questions for this witness?

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY: Yes/ No, your honor.

(If the plaintiff has more questions for the witness, their redirect is limited to questions arising from the plaintiff's questioning of the witness. The plaintiff's counsel will inform the court when it is finished questioning the witness.)

JUDGE: The witness is excused. Does the plaintiff have any additional witnesses?

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY: Yes your honor. [Follow same procedure as before.] / No your honor.
The plaintiff rests.

JUDGE: The defendant may call its first witness.

[The following procedure should be used for each witness for the defendant]

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: The defendant calls _____. (Witness walks to stand).

CLERK: Please stand. Raise your right hand. Do you promise the testimony you shall give in the case before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

WITNESS: I do.

CLERK: You may be seated.

(Defendant's attorney questions the witness)

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I have no more questions for this witness, your honor.

JUDGE: Does the plaintiff have any questions?

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY: Yes, we do your honor.

(Plaintiff's attorney questions the witness)

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PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY: I have no more questions for this witness, your honor.

JUDGE: Does the defendant have any further questions for this witness?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Yes/ No, your honor.

(If the defendant has more questions for the witness, their redirect is limited to questions arising from the plaintiff's questioning of the witness. The defendant's counsel will inform the court when it is finished questioning the witness.)

JUDGE: The witness is excused. Does the defendant have any additional witnesses?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Yes your honor (follow script above) / No your honor. The defense rests.

JUDGE: We will now hear closing argument.

PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY: [Closing Argument]

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: [Closing Argument]

JUDGE: Thank you. I will take these arguments into consideration. Court is adjourned.

CLERK: All rise for the Honorable _____.