

OBJECTIVES OF THE DEFENSE

As defense attorneys your main objective is to have Ed acquitted of the murder charge. As Ed himself has confessed to the murders, your best bid is to plead “not guilty by reasons of insanity” and therefore you might want to prove that Ed is in fact insane and thus unfit for punishment. You do not, however, want Ed to be permitted to a mental institution as there would be no date of release.

Prepare an opening statement in which you present what you want to prove in this case and why. This is United States, so you are allowed to be bold. You are, however, not allowed to actually argue your case at this point of the trial.

Prepare your examination of the three witnesses.

The neighbour Catherine who heard screams from the house.

One of the three police officers who was present when Ed confessed.

A distant cousin to the old man, Elizabeth.

Perhaps you also want to call Ed himself onto the witness stand.

You must also present a closing statement at the end of the trial. Here you will seek to wrap up the case and clarify for the jury what you have proved during the trial. You might also, once again, repeat your wishes for the jury's verdict.

Remember that you can object to questions that are irrelevant, speculation, or hearsay. This option might also be used to protest against things that are generally not in your favor.