



Chettinad Vidyashram



LEGIS FESTIS 2026

VERITAS SEMPER VINCIT



MOOT COURT MANNERS

OPENING ADDRESS:

"May it please this Hon'ble court. This is counsel appearing on behalf of the Petitioners /Appellants / Respondents in the case of (Name of Petitioner(s) / Appellant(s) /Respondent(s))"

The counsel seeks permission to refer to the Hon'ble bench as your lordship(s)/ladyship(s) .

(In case there is one or more lady judge accompanying a male judge, request the lady judge's permission formally to address the bench as, "your Lordships".)

Eg,-"If it would be of no inconvenience to your Ladyship(s), may I please refer to the Bench jointly as your Lordships?"

"If your Lordship(s) / Ladyship(s) permit(s) may I please state the facts of the case in hand?"

Or you may use "Would your Lordship(s) / Ladyship(s) appreciate a brief perusal of the facts?"

Once they nod, say "Much obliged your Lordship(s) / Ladyship(s)"

FACTS:

State the facts as succinctly as possible.

But do not be partial to your side. The statement of facts must be neutral.

Once the facts are stated: “May I please move on to the issues, your Lordship?”

(The judges will nod)

"Much obliged"

"Your Lordships, the issues in hand in the present case are as follows"

Issue 1

Issue 2

Issue 3

...

I will be dealing with the first two issues in __ mins, the co counsel will deal with the third, fourth and fifth issues in __ mins, reserving __ mins, and my co-counsel will be arguing the mins for rebuttals.

ARGUMENTS:

Argue with sub-issues and a neat structure to aid in clarity of thought.

When a Judge questions; Say 'much obliged'

If he asks you to argue a particular point or immediately move to a point of argument; say 'certainly your Lordship'

If he asks you a question; answer it as directly as possible. Once you are done answering, ask: "If your Lordship is satisfied with the answer, may I continue with my argument?" If he permits continue after a 'much obliged'

After the first issue, "If your Lordships are satisfied with the first issue, may I move on to the next issue?" "Much obliged" "My second issue deals with " and so on.

"If your Lordships have no further questions, may I leave the podium for my co-counsel to continue?" 'Much obliged'

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Second counsel takes over.

"If I may continue from where my co-counsel left," "I would be dealing with issues three and four"

"If your lordship has no further questions, may I please move on to the prayer?" "Much obliged."

PRAYER:

WHEREFORE in light of issues raised, arguments advanced and authorities cited, it is most humbly prayed before this Hon'ble Court that it be pleased to adjudge and declare that:

(The particulars of the prayer)

AND/OR pass any other order/orders as this Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper in the circumstances of the given case and the interest of Justice, Equity, and Good Conscience.

And for this act of kindness and justice, the counsel of petitioners shall be dutybound and forever pray.

(Know your full prayer by heart)

SOME ADDITIONAL POINTS:

- Bow at the judge before entering or leaving a courtroom. Even if you are in the court hall to just watch the proceedings. You must bow on entering and leaving.
- Be clear on which exact provisions of law you are referring to.
- Keep time.
- Never cut the judge off when he/she is questioning. Wait till they are done and then answer.
- Know your precedents. Whether this case was taken up, before this forum. Whether it has been taken on appeal or overruled, the number of judges who heard the case and brief facts of the case.
- Don't laugh or engage in crosstalk during court proceedings.
- Dress appropriately and neatly. Make sure you are well groomed.
- Be with utmost respect to the judge.
- The mooters shall not try to communicate or influence the judges and/or the opposite counsels by any means.