

Cross Help

- The essence of cross is to be able to read an affidavit and identify flaws in someone's testimony. After reading through the statement of either George Hill or John Kloner, find flaws in what he is saying or things he did wrong that could hold him responsible for the attack.
- In your tryout you will write out a list of questions identifying these flaws, someone on UT Mock Trial will answer these questions as the witness. We are looking for your ability to find these flaws, ask analytic questions, and display the ability to think on your feet by adapting and rephrasing questions when the witness does not give the answer you want.
- The best way to tackle this task is to identify the point you want to highlight (I would choose 3-4 total for your entire cross) and ask questions to build up the point.
- Try to make your questions short and addressing one thing at a time. Think of it like stairs where the top is the big point you want to make. Ask one question at a time to build up to it. Don't pack too much into one question. Break it up so you can maintain control and the jury (the team) can follow along.
- Some questions can act to set the stage. Pretend we don't know about the case and paint a picture with your words.
- Try to use closed ended, or "leading" questions. You are narrowing them down to a yes or no answer, one that you know the answer to given the statement. You want to be talking more than the witness, keep the control.
 - Examples
 - Close-Ended: You went to the grocery store?
 - Open-Ended: Where did you go?
- Example of crossing the Big Bad Wolf (note this is just an example, your cross must be of one of the statements on the website):
 - So you arrived at the first Pig's house?
 - When you arrived it was around noon?
 - You saw that the house was made of straw?
 - You know straw is a pretty weak material?
 - And you knew someone was home?
 - And you began to blow the house down?
 - Just to clarify, when you huffed and puffed, you knew the house was weak?
 - And you know that there was, in fact, a pig in that house?
 - After blowing that house down, the Pig escaped?
 - And he went into another house?
 - That house was made of sticks, correct?
 - That is also a pretty weak material, right?
 - And you knew that there was not just one pig in that house?
 - You knew that there were two pigs?
 - And despite knowing this, you blew the house down?
 - Then, both of these pigs went in a final house?
 - It was a brick house, correct?

- You also knew that there were three pigs now in that house?
- Yet you still huffed?
- You still puffed?
- And you had every intention to blow down that last house with three pigs in it?
- But you failed?
- And that is when the police came, correct?
- No further questions.