

“And May It Please the Court” U.S. Supreme Court Oral Argument Listening & Notetaking Guide

The case of _____

v. _____

Petitioner(the party that lost in the lower court and is now
appealing to the Supreme Court)

What did you think was the best point the petitioner
made in the opening statement?

Note one question from a justice that you thought was
especially helpful in getting the petitioner to clarify a
point.

Note one question or point from a justice to the
petitioner that surprised you or that you just thought was
interesting.

What did you think was the best point the petitioner
made during the question and answer period?
(You may also include a point made during the final three-
minute rebuttal the petitioner is allowed).

Respondent

(the party that won in the lower court)

What did you think was the best point the respondent
made in the opening statement?

Note one question from a justice that you thought was
especially helpful in getting the respondent to clarify a
point.

Note one question or point from a justice to the
respondent that surprised you or that you just thought
was interesting.

What did you think was the best point the respondent
made during the question and answer period?

How do you think the Supreme Court should rule in this case? Explain your reasoning in at least three sentences.