

**Activity 3. Trial Closing Remarks Compared (Teacher’s Version)**

Record the main points of the closing arguments for each side, the defense and the prosecution, in the Scottsboro Boys trials; and the main points of the closing speech to the jury delivered by the defense in the *To Kill a Mockingbird* trial.

<b>Scottsboro Boys trial, 1933</b>	<b><i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> trial</b>
<p><b>For the Defense</b></p> <p>Summation of Samuel Leibowitz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commentary on prejudice</li> <li>• Appeal to reason of jury</li> <li>• Contradiction to Prosecution’s attack</li> <li>• Appeal to justice</li> <li>• <i>“Mobs mean nothing to me. Let them hang me; I don't care. Life is only an incident in the Creator's scheme of things, but if I can contribute my little bit to see that justice is served, then my mission is fulfilled.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“As for the Jew money,” he went on, “when the hour of our country's need came there was no question of Jew or gentile, of black or white—all, all together braved the smoke and flame of Flanders Fields.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Give even this poor scrap of colored humanity a fair, square deal.”</i></li> <li>• Pointed out discrepancies in the case</li> <li>• Called for acquittal to be based <i>“on the thousand doubts in this case.”</i></li> <li>• Price's story was the <i>“foul, contemptible outrageous lie of an abandoned, brazen woman.”</i></li> <li>• Finally, after four hours face flushed, closed with The Lord's Prayer: <i>“Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.”</i></li> <li>• Promised to appeal verdicts <i>“to Hell and back.”</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>For the Defense</b></p> <p>Summation of Atticus Finch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one sought out any medical help</li> <li>• The testimony of Bob and Mayella Ewell had serious suspicion in it</li> <li>• Whoever beat Mayella led exclusively with the left, while Tom Robinson's left hand was clearly unfit for use</li> <li>• All men should be treated as equals</li> <li>• The one place a man should get a fair trial is in our court system</li> <li>• The only thing that stands between the truth of this case and the outcome of this case is what occurs in the hearts of the members of the jury</li> </ul>

**Trial Closing Remarks**

**Scottsboro Boys Trial 1933**

**To Kill a Mockingbird trial**

**For the Prosecution**

Closing remarks of Wade Wright, Solicitor of Morgan County, who was assisting Attorney General Knight for the Prosecution

- Attack on credibility of defense attorneys as corrupt
- Defense witnesses testimony has been bought
- Ruby Bates is a victim
- Inflamed jury and the crowd with direct attack on Lebowitz asking, *“Whether justice in this case is going to be bought and sold in Alabama with Jew money from New York.”*

Final Summation by Attorney General, Thomas Knight

- *“I’m no murderer.”*
- Referred to the defendant Haywood Patterson as *“that thing.”*
- Knight told the jury that if they vote to acquit Patterson, they should *“put a garland of roses around his neck, give him a supper and send him to New York City.”*
- *“I do not want a verdict based on racial prejudice or religious creed—I want a verdict on the merits of this case.”*
- On that evidence, he told the jury, *“There can be but one verdict—death in the electric chair for raping Victoria Price”*

**For the Prosecution**

Note: The novel does not relate a prosecution closing statement.