**How Courts Work**

**Steps in a Trial**

**Opening Statements**

Answer the following questions after completing the readings

Vocabulary:

**Prevail:** win

**Liability:** who is at fault or is responsible

**Preponderance:** greater in number, quantity, or importance.

**Stringent**: strict, precise, and exact

1. What is the purpose of an opening statement?

2.  What are the rules regarding an opening statement?

3. Which side gives the first opening statement?

4. What does "burden of proof" mean?

5.  What must the defendant have to prove during the case?