

Role of Court and Jury

During these instructions, I will not summarize the evidence. If necessary, I may refer to portions of the evidence to explain the law that relates to it. My reference to evidence, or my failure to refer to evidence, expresses no opinion about the truthfulness, accuracy, or importance of any particular evidence. In fact, nothing I have said [and no questions I have asked] in the course of this trial (was/were) meant to suggest that I have an opinion about this case. If you have formed an impression that I do have an opinion, you must put it out of your mind and disregard it.

[The level of my voice or intonation may vary during these instructions. If I do that, it is done to help you understand these instructions. It is not done to communicate any opinion about the law or the facts of the case or of whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty.]

It is not my responsibility to judge the evidence here. It is yours. You and you alone are the judges of the facts, and you and you alone are responsible for deciding whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty.