Sample Closing Statement:

First paragraph: Summarize why the claimant should be entitled to benefits / wasn’t overpaid / etc. Be careful not to completely recount the facts. Keep it brief.

*Ex: “My client, Ms. Rodriguez, was eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. When she left her job in January, she left due to a medical issue. Ms. Rodriguez provided documentation to the employer of her medical issue over the course of several months. Ms. Rodriguez requested appropriate leave and was denied. Without other options to keep her job, Ms. Rodriguez was forced to quit.”*

Second paragraph: If there is an employer involved, this is the time to note shortcomings. The employer didn’t show up / they didn’t provide a good reason for termination / didn’t provide evidence.

*Ex: “Ms. Rodriguez’s supervisor, Bob, failed to provide testimony or evidence that Ms. Rodriguez’s request for a leave of absence was approved.”*

Third paragraph: Legal basis. This is your moment to point to any relevant case law in your favor. Primarily, you are citing Appeal Board Decisions. Judges can consider other favorable hearing decisions, but they are not controlling.

Fourth paragraph: bring it all home. This is your final stand to make a case for your client. End on a strong note – pull at the heartstrings, note the struggles your client has faced or why they are right in their entitlement for benefits.

*Ex: “Ms. Rodriguez suffered for years with this medical issue that ultimately forced her to stop working. Without a means to provide for her family, Ms. Rodriguez has been struggling. Ms. Rodriguez should be eligible for benefits because she only left her job due to medical reasons and took adequate steps to preserve her position.”*