

The opening arguments of the U.S. Senate impeachment trial of President Trump began this week. Below is a breakdown of the key players and the trial procedures.

Key Actors	
Presiding Officer	Chief Justice John Roberts is responsible for administering oaths and, if he chooses, ruling on procedural matters. All motions, objections, requests, or applications must be addressed to him, though his rulings may be overruled by a majority vote.
Judge & Jury	U.S. senators will serve as judge and jury. Senators will submit written question for the defense counsel and impeachment managers, consider evidence and witnesses, and vote to either dismiss the charges all together or acquit or convict the President.
White House Defense Team	Pat Cipollone will lead the President’s defense counsel, assisted by Jay Sekulow, Kenneth Star, and Alan Dershowitz, among others. Several House members will also serve on the President’s impeachment team, but they will not participate in the trial. ¹
House Impeachment Managers	Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Adam Schiff (CA-28) and Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Jerry Nadler (NY-10) will lead the House’s argument for impeachment. ²

Trial Procedures:

- **The Senate will conduct the trial six days a week, only breaking on Sundays.** The length of the trial remains uncertain and largely depends on whether the Senate votes to hear additional witnesses and evidence. If the Senate votes against hearing additional witnesses and evidence, the trial could conclude as soon as next week.
- **Opening arguments began this week and each side has twenty-four hours, over three days each, to present their respective cases.** The House impeachment managers, led by Congressman Schiff, will present first, followed by President Trump’s legal team, led by Pat Cipollone.
- **Senators will then have sixteen hours to submit written questions for the defense and impeachment managers.** Questions will be submitted to Chief Justice Roberts, who will question both sides on the senators’ behalf.
- **Following questioning, the Senate will hold four hours of debate and then vote on whether to consider additional evidence and witnesses.** If a simple majority of the Senate votes in favor, senators may then file additional motions requesting specific evidence and witness subpoenas. Each motion requires a simple majority vote to pass. With fifty-three Republicans in the Senate, four GOP senators would need to vote with Democrats, who have demanded additional witnesses, for additional witnesses to be subpoenaed. A motion to dismiss the charges could also be filed and passed by a simple majority.
- **Following any additional witnesses or testimony, the Senate will deliberate and vote on resolution of each article of impeachment.** It requires sixty-seven senators to vote in favor of an article of impeachment to convict the President.

¹ Additional members of the President’s impeachment team include Congresswomen Debbie Lesko (AZ-08) and Elise Stefanik (NY-21) and Congressmen Doug Collins (GA-09), Mike Johnson (LA-04), Mark Meadows (NC-11), Lee Zeldin (NY-01), Jim Jordan (OH-04), and John Ratcliffe (TX-04).

² Other managers include Congressmen Jason Crow (CO-06) and Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08), and Congresswomen Zoe Lofgren (CA-19), Val Demings (FL-10), and Sylvia Garcia (TX-29).