

Name: _____
Date: _____ Class period: _____

Fictional Voir Dire Play Questions-Sample Answers

Reflect on the play and answer the following questions to show what you learned.

1. Does everyone summoned to the courthouse for jury duty end up on a jury? Why or why not?

Only some people summoned to the courthouse are placed on a jury. Some people are excused for cause, and others are excused by either attorney using a peremptory challenge. They do not have to tell the judge why they are excusing the juror for a peremptory challenge. Lastly, some are just not needed based on the trials going on at that time.

2. Why do we have a voir dire process to choose jurors?

Step in the process to ensure the most fair trial possible. Helps ensure due process for anyone accused of a crime. Based on their life experiences or whom they know that is part of the case, it would be challenging for everyone to be objective. This process is there to make sure no one has biases or preconceived ideas about the case.

3. If you were the plaintiff in this fictitious case, who would you want on the jury? Why?
Answers will vary; See conclusion of script for possible choices although students may differ as long as they explain their response.

4. If you were the defense attorney on behalf of Xilbup, who would you want on the jury?
Why?

Answers will vary; See conclusion of script for possible choices although students may differ as long as they explain their response.

5. Overall, what role do juries play in the trial process and why are they important?

- Judges determine the law to apply in the case and juries decide the facts
- The right to a jury trial is a constitutional right that the Framers protected in multiple places in the U.S. Constitution
- Jury trials help with checks and balances
- Jury trials place power in the people and helps prevent tyranny and absolute rule
- Chance for citizens to participate in government
- Peacefully resolve disputes
- Protection of rights and liberties