

Name: _____

Jury Duty



Work with your group to find an adult (teacher, parent, guardian, older relative) who has performed jury duty. Refer to the Bill of Rights as your primary source document to remind you of the rights that the judicial system protects. Interview this individual about his or her experience. Use the questions below to help you. Using the information you gathered doing this interview as secondary source research, complete the follow-up activity by writing an essay about the jury system.

Part 1: Jury Duty Interview

1. What did you think when you first received the jury notification?

2. Were you questioned to serve on a jury? If so, what were some of the questions that you were asked?

3. Did you serve on a jury? If so, what was your experience like?

4. Did your experience influence how you feel about the jury system? Why or why not?

5. What role do you think the jury system plays in the American judicial process?

Part 2: Essay

Use your interview responses and additional research to write an essay about the jury system in the United States. Include information about the process of selecting a jury, as well as the role of the jury during a trial.

Using the text of the Bill of Rights, identify and describe the Constitutional rights that are protected through this process. In conclusion, discuss why juries are important in the American judicial system, how the American justice system works to ensure the rights of all citizens, and why this process is important to a democratic society.

Trials in Other Countries

In **Argentina**, the constitution includes a jury system, but there are no laws that allow a jury to be called. 

In **Iran**, judges are instructed to rule based on their own opinions and interpretations of the law. Their decisions are final and cannot be questioned. 

In **Norway**, juries are used only in cases that are being appealed. 

In **Portugal**, jury trials have to be requested by the defendant, but are very rarely granted. 

In **Switzerland**, juries hear only the most serious cases, such as murder. 