



Work with your group to find an adult (teacher, parent, guardian, older relative) who has served jury duty. Interview this individual about his or her experience. Use the questions below to help you. Then 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. Finally, discuss the importance of juries in the American judicial system.

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. 

