

Unit 3 Topic 2.5 Page 64

Activity: Media

The Ouija board case

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- describe ways in which juries might misbehave during a trial.

A. Using the link below, complete questions 1 to 20 that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CL2sQUuyjc>

Note: There is no commentary on the clip, so you need to look at the words on the screen. It may help to pause and read as you work through the clip.

1. What was Stephen Young found guilty of in 1994?
2. How had the couple been killed?
3. How long was the trial?
4. What was the headline in the *News of the World* a month after the verdict?
5. What did the headline refer to?
6. Briefly describe how the jurors used the Ouija board.
7. According to the clip, why do jurors sometimes misbehave?
8. What happened in an Australian trial?
9. How do search engines and social media affect jurors?
10. What proportion of jurors in high-profile cases searched online for information about the case?
11. In the trial of Stephen Young, what had an earlier jury done?
12. Why did the trial end before completion?
13. According to Gans, why might jurors feel the need to misbehave and break the rules?
14. What is the implication of a re-trial? Use the example of the Sudoku jury to explain.
15. Apart from cost, what further implications are there?
16. What happened in the Ouija board case?
17. What was the effect on the family of the victim?
18. According to Gans, why was the Ouija board case exceptional?
19. What was the impact of the media attention?
20. What other misbehaviour by jurors does Gans quote?

B. Overall, do you think juries will always give a fair verdict? Justify your answer.