



# 12 Angry Men Reading Guide

Use the graphic organizer to keep the characters in order. They do not have names.

Juror #	Occupation	Habits	Characterization	Order
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

Can you make any assertions about the order in which the jurors changed their minds and their characterization?

## *12 Angry Men* Quickwrite

---

Some harder questions for you to think about...take note of the space you have to write. ☺

Why do you think Juror 8 was successful in persuading those around him to follow his cause, while the characters in the dystopian literature failed? Brainstorm at least 3 factors that contributed to his success:

Who is responsible for proving the boy to be not guilty? How is this ironic?

What does the director say about Americans through Juror 11?

## Paying Attention to *12 Angry Men* – The Movie

---

Who said long and intense conversations can't be interesting? Enjoy your day, pay attention, complete the guide, you will be tested.

1. The opening scene shows the exterior setting, the court house. The camera pans up then down, showing smaller and smaller spaces. It ends up in the courtroom where the judge, jury and defendant are closed in very confined spaces. How does this show the mood of the film?
2. As the credits roll by, the setting shifts to the jury room. What do the broken fan and the opening of windows tell the viewer about the atmosphere of the room?
3. By looking out of the windows, where does the film take place? How does the audience know?
4. Several jurors tell their occupations. 12 is an advertising executive; 4 is a stock broker; 2 is a banker; 8 is an architect; 11 is a watch maker; 6 is a house painter; 3 runs a messenger service; 7 is a salesman. Why do the film producers add this information?
5. In the film, Juror 7 has baseball tickets rather tickets to a play in the original. Why do the producers cast 7 as a sports fan rather than as a theater-goer?
6. Why do the film producers show the first vote by a show of hands?
7. Pay attention to the wardrobe decisions for the movie. What do the thick glasses suggest about the character who wears them? What about suspenders?

8. The second vote is made by secret ballot. How do the producers add suspense to the foreman's vote count?

9. In the men's room, 8 takes a very long time to wash his hands. Back in the jury room, 8 closes his eyes as he recounts the testimony about the el train. Why do the producers show 8 in this manner?

10. Why does 6 always smile and change the tone of his voice when he addresses the oldest juror? What does this tell us about his character?

11. While 8 describes the witnesses' apartment with a professionally made diagram, 7 whistles. Why does he whistle?

12. Juror 3 is restrained by the other after 8 calls him a "sadist." Why do the producers add this visual threat of violence to the film?

13. What clues do you see that gives the audience clues about how increasingly warm the room is becoming? Why is this important to the story?

14. A storm begins. 7 is able to start the fan. Why do these changes in SETTING indicate that the jurors are becoming calmer?

15. How does the jurors' reenactment of the stabbing add suspense to the film?

16. Why does 7 sweat when he argues with 11 over changing his vote? (remember, it is cooler in the room)
  
17. Why do the producers show hands and not faces during the sixth vote?
  
18. Why do the jurors get up and leave the table as 10 stereotypes slum dwellers?
  
19. Why do they return to their seats when 8 responds?
  
20. How does the body language of 3 show his disgust with his fellow jurors?
  
21. Why does 3 tear the photo of his son and weep as he changes his vote?
  
22. What does 8 do to make 3 again feel a member of the group?
  
23. Why does the last scene of the film take place outside in the sunlight?

## 12 Angry Men Storyboard

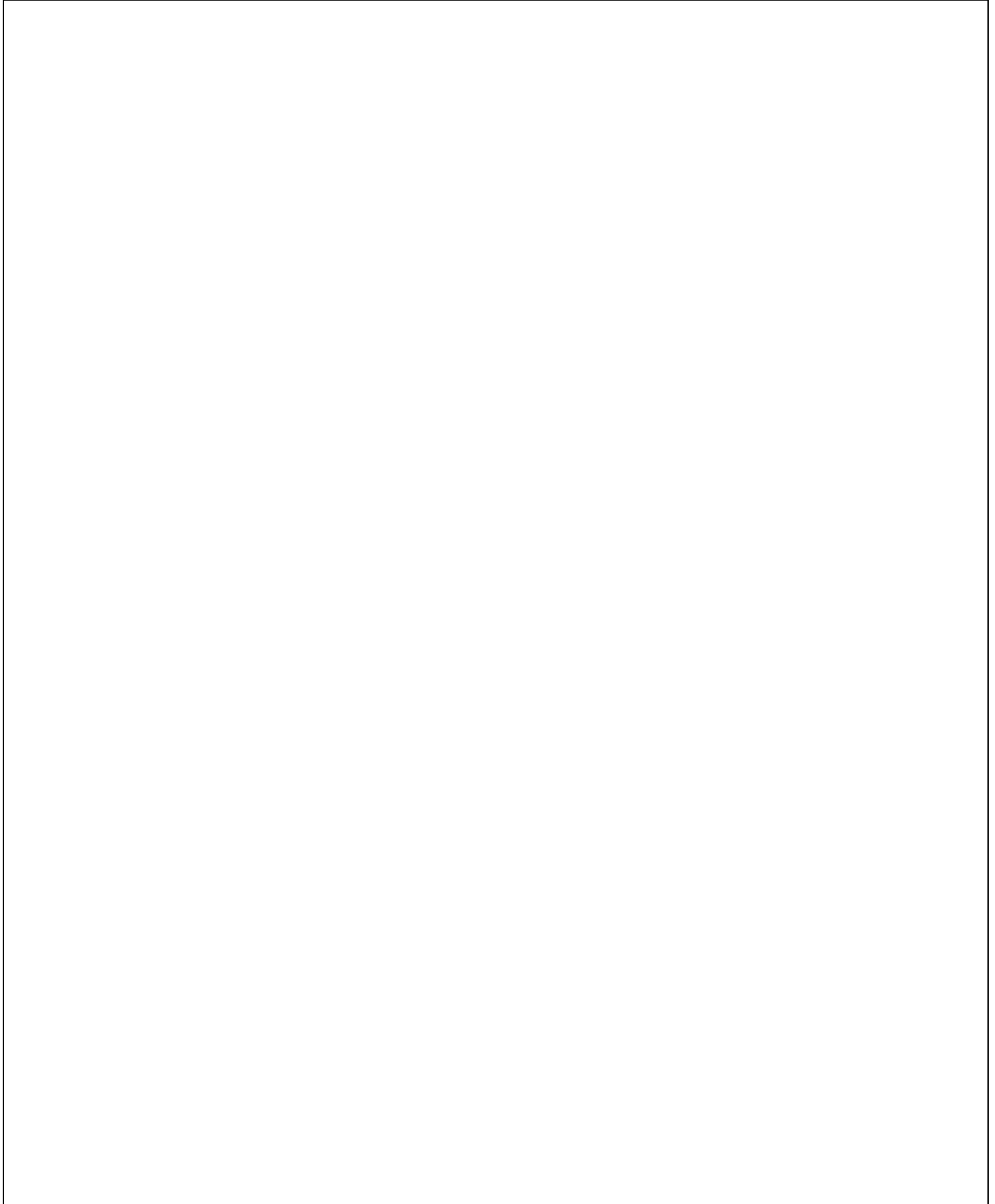
Select 12 of the most important moments from *12 Angry Men* and draw them to create a visual plotline. The text of *12 Angry Men*, should you need it, is in the purple textbooks at the front of the room.


## *12 Angry Men* Character Sketch

---

Using the stage directions and your characterization, draw a portrait of the assigned juror. For each decision you make in regards to the look of your character, place a quote that supports the decision in the white space around the portrait.

Draft the portrait here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a portrait of a juror. The box is currently blank.

# Improving The Jury System

Thinking critically about the lessons learned in *12 Angry Men*, what steps could be taken to improve the jury system in America?

Describe the Improvement	Describe the Result