

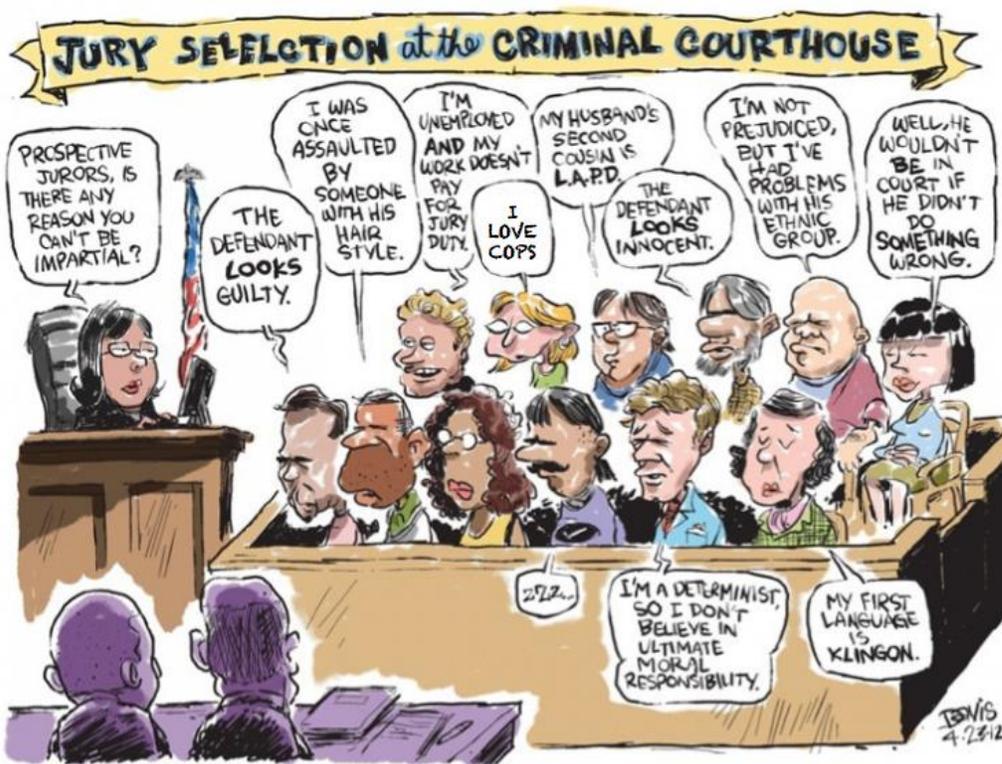
Station 2: Jury Duty

Directions: For each station, read the handout with your partner and then complete each of the steps below:

- DISCUSS: Is your station about something you SHOULD do or something you HAVE to do?
- DISCUSS: What *level of community* does your station involve? Are there several levels?
- WRITE: Summarize the most important parts of your station with a few sentences or a political cartoon/drawing.
- WRITE: Briefly describe how the sources after the reading connect to the information you read. What is the message of these sources?

Guilty or not guilty? Is a **defendant** in a **civil dispute** responsible to pay the plaintiff (person arguing for something) money?? These are the questions answered by a **jury** in a court room **trial**. They come up with a **verdict** (a decision) in a legal case. The **jury** is a group of people selected from the community to look over **evidence** and make sure that **justice** is served. This whole process is part of the Judicial Branch of government. You'll learn later in the year that every person in the United States is **GUARANTEED** a **trial by jury** because of the **6th and 7th amendment** in the U.S. Constitution. We value this right so much because when **King George III** ruled over the American Colonies, he took away the right to a fair trial by jury. This was one of our complaints in the **Declaration of Independence**. Wait...what if **NOBODY** wants to serve on a jury??

Section 40.23 of the Florida Statutes (state laws) states that "failure to attend as a juror upon being duly summoned (called) may result in a fine not to exceed \$100." In addition to the fine, you may also be forced to complete community service or even jail time.



"I consider trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."

Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding fathers, writer of the Declaration of Independence, 3rd U.S. President.

"The Sixth Amendment secures to persons charged with a crime the right to be tried by an impartial jury reflecting a fair cross-section of the community." - *Ruth Bader Ginsburg, U.S. Supreme Court Justice.*

"It is not only [the juror's] right, but his duty...to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgment, and conscience."

- *John Adams, one of the founding fathers and signers of the Declaration of Independence, 2nd U.S. President.*