

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Juror Selection



In this activity you will have to decide if the potential jurors listed below will be fair for this case. Referring to a copy of the Sixth Amendment, remind yourself of the importance of the right to a fair trial that the Constitution guarantees.

The case is between the plaintiff (Sharon Franks) and the defendant (Express Car Repair). The plaintiff is suing the defendant because she claims she brought her car to Express Car Repair for an oil change and the repair shop damaged her car. Based on the jurors' answers, list advantages or disadvantages for the plaintiff and the defendant. Will this juror be fair and impartial and up to the standard set by the Constitution? List whether the answer given indicates bias or impartiality. Then decide whether each person should be on the jury.

## Juror 1 Josie Batch, waitress, age 26

Describe your work ethic. *I work very hard to support myself and help my family.*

Have you ever been fired from a job? Yes. *I used to work for the plaintiff until she fired me.*

So you know the plaintiff? Yes. *I really don't like her and don't feel like I can listen to the evidence fairly.*

Advantages/disadvantages for the plaintiff:

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Advantages/disadvantages for the defendant:

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Determination on juror:

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## Voir Dire

Lawyers are charged with selecting an impartial jury through a process known as voir dire. During voir dire, lawyers interview the jurors to try to discover any bias or prejudice that could affect their ability to be fair and impartial. It is the judge's responsibility to excuse any biased jurors. It is important that the jurors be able to decide a verdict based on the evidence. Jurors cannot allow any strong opinions about the issues or preconceived notions about either the plaintiff's claims or the defendant's defense to bias their judgment. Jurors should decide a case on the basis of the evidence they hear and see during the trial, not on strong emotional feelings in favor of or against one of the parties.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### Juror 2 Christopher Grace, teacher, age 55

Have you ever taken a car to Express Car Repair? *I take both of my cars there. A few months ago one of my cars was dented while at the repair shop.*

Was it badly damaged? *It hasn't affected how the car drives, but it looks bad.*

Do you think that experience will keep you from being a fair juror in this case? *No, I don't.*

Advantages/disadvantages for the plaintiff:

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Advantages/disadvantages for the defendant:

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Determination on juror:

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### Juror 3 Janet Casson, owner of Lots to Read Bookstore, age 39

How long has your business been located next door to Express Car Repair? *About two years.*

Do you know anyone who works at Express Car Repair? *The people who work at the repair shop are always parking in front of my store, but I don't know any of them by name.*

Is there any reason you would not be able to consider evidence fairly? *I've taken my car to the repair shop and did not really like their work, but I would try not to let anything influence my judgment.*

Advantages/disadvantages for the plaintiff:

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Advantages/disadvantages for the defendant:

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Determination on juror:

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