

Name _____ Date _____

Jury Duty

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b'

The Sixth Amendment protects the rights of those accused of crimes. It is part of the Bill of Rights.

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The first clause in the amendment is the right to a speedy and public trial by an unbiased jury. The jury is composed of people in the community where the crime was committed. All charges against the accused individual are explained to them. The accused are also given the opportunity to obtain witnesses.

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The last clause is the right to have the assistance of counsel, or an attorney, to defend them at trial. If the accused can't afford an attorney, the government is required to provide one at no cost.

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Notes

2. b'

In order to serve on a jury, there are a few requirements that must be met. Jurors must be a US citizen and at least 18 years old. They must also live in the community where the trial is being held.

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Depending on the type of trial, the number of jurors will vary. For example, petit juries, or trial juries, have about 6 to 12 jurors. Grand juries usually have up to 16 to 23 jurors. The difference between these two juries is that trial juries decide whether or not the person accused is guilty while grand juries decide whether or not there is enough evidence to charge someone with a crime.

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Notes

3. b'

Notes

Just because you received a jury duty summons does not mean that you're guaranteed to serve on the jury. There is a selection process that happens to determine suitability for jury service. This process is called voir dire. Voir dire means to speak the truth. During this process, potential jurors are questioned by attorneys and the judge. These questions help determine if a juror can decide a particular case fairly. Jurors who may be biased are dismissed.

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By serving on a jury, you're protecting the liberty of fellow citizens. It's a civic responsibility. And ensuring they get a fair trial is an important part of jury duty.

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