

Fair Decision Team

Read about how jurors help courts make fair decisions.

3.1.g “serving on a jury;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three actions jurors take to make a fair decision, and circle two things jurors must not do.

What Jurors Do

- ① When a court has a serious case, it may need a jury. A jury is a group of people from the community. Adults may get a summons, which is an official notice to come to court. At court, lawyers and the judge ask questions. Some people are chosen to serve because they can listen fairly to the case.
- ② Jurors listen as witnesses answer questions and as lawyers share evidence. Evidence can include things people saw, papers, or other information used in court. Jurors must pay close attention. They do not decide the case by guessing, looking things up online, or talking about it with people outside the jury. These rules help protect a fair decision.
- ③ After hearing all the evidence, jurors meet together in a private room. They talk about what the evidence shows and try to agree on a verdict. A verdict is the jury's decision, such as guilty or not guilty. The judge explains the law and runs the trial, but the jury decides the facts. Serving carefully helps everyone receive fair treatment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why are some people chosen to serve on a jury?

2 Name two kinds of evidence that jurors may hear or see.

3 What are two things jurors should not do when deciding a case?

4 How is the jury's job different from the judge's job?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you are serving on a jury. Write three sentences explaining how you would help the jury make a fair verdict. Include something you would listen to, how you would discuss evidence, and one thing you would not do.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three actions jurors take to make a fair decision, and circle two things jurors must not do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why are some people chosen to serve on a jury?	They are chosen because they can listen fairly to the case.
2	Name two kinds of evidence that jurors may hear or see.	Answers may include things people saw, papers, or other information used in court.
3	What are two things jurors should not do when deciding a case?	They should not guess, look up information online, or talk about the case with people outside the jury.
4	How is the jury's job different from the judge's job?	The judge explains the law and runs the trial. The jury decides the facts and reaches a verdict.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would listen carefully to each witness and the papers shown in court. In the jury room, I would talk about what the evidence shows and hear other jurors' ideas. I would not look up the case online or talk about it outside the jury.

Accept equivalent answers that match the passage, including any two listed kinds of evidence or prohibited actions. For the open response, look for three sentences that include careful listening, discussion based on evidence, and avoiding outside information or outside discussion.