Name

Ms. Filkins

Freshman English

Due Date

*12 Angry Men* Analytical Essay

O.J. Simpson’s attorney once said, “If it doesn’t fit, you must acquit!” While on trial for murder, there were gloves found near the crime scene that the prosecution tried using for evidence. However, the gloves did not fit Mr. Simpson, giving jurors some reasonable doubt. Johnnie Cochran’s quote relates to *12 Angry Men*, because evidence that was presented in the fictional case was not solid enough to prove that a nineteen-year-old boy was guilty of committing premeditated homicide. The faulty evidence helped the jury to reach a not guilty verdict. In the play *12 Angry Men* by Reginald Rose, there is reasonable doubt surrounding the evidence of the knife, the old man’s testimony, and the woman’s testimony that will acquit a young man of premeditated homicide.

First, reasonable doubt is defined as a real doubt based upon reason and common sense after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence or lack of evidence in a case. *In 12 Angry Men*, a young man is accused of the premeditated homicide of his father, however there are many reasons to doubt his guilt. The first reason to doubt the nineteen-year-old’s guilt is the evidence of the knife. A shopkeeper testified he sold the boy a one-of-a kind switchblade. Fortunately, juror number eight found an exact replica of the murder weapon at a junk shop in the boy’s neighborhood, and “[Juror number] eight swiftly [opened] the blade of the switch-knife and quickly [jammed] it into the table next to the [murder weapon]. They are exactly alike” (6). Due to the fact the knife was not one-of-a kind; anyone could have stabbed the boy’s father. Clearly, there is reasonable doubt surrounding the evidence of the knife.