

Noemi Burgos

Professor Garcia

College Writing II

2/2/20

### Trial Failure

The movie *Twelve Angry Men* released in 1957, was directed by Sidney Lumet based on a book written by Reginald Rose. It is about twelve white jurors deciding the fate of a young boy who is on trial for murder. This black and white film had me thinking and was very interesting. In the beginning of the film, eleven out of the twelve found the boy to be guilty. Until, one juror had all the men contemplating the evidence presented and the innocence of the boy. It took a long time for the men to get on the same page, but at the end the right decision was made. The majority of the jurors found the boy guilty based on the stereotypes of an inner-city boy who was abused. It's sad that they only focused on the sayings instead of the evidence itself. The issues spoken in the 1957 film of racism and injustice is still relevant to this day.

This particular murder case is something that is still current. Years later, not much has changed. There's more of variety of jurors, but many still have that same mind set as those jurors in the film. Injustice and racism have been a huge issue for many years and it still has not been resolved. Everyone should watch this movie because the message behind it is very empowering. To not follow the beliefs of others and think for yourself. Jurors should evaluate the evidence at trial before making their final decision. It should never be based on the person's background. Racism today is slowly getting better; however, injustice is getting worse. The young boy could have been given the death penalty if he was found guilty. I don't understand why an 18-year-old

boy would get death. If he was white would he really get death? I understand why he was charged as an adult, but I find it ridiculous to be arrested 'til death because of his nationality. A certain juror had his own opinion on the boy, which caused a lot of tension.

One of the jurors made it known that he truly believed the boy was guilty based on where he was from. The fact he was prideful about it, made me sick. During the film, the men were getting sick of him talking. Close to the end, the man was saying such awful things about the boy. One by one the men stood up and moved away from the table with their backs facing the man. Then one of the jurors told him to sit down and shut up. He stopped talking and moved to a separate table and sat down realizing what he was saying after all. Then all the jurors went back to their seat and continued talking. That juror heard himself within the silence. That scene was very moving and powerful. Only if everyone can turn their backs from hate and racism, there can be a difference in the world. Also, if people can actually think and realize about what they say or believe about others that are different. Without that one juror believing in the boys' innocence, the boy could've been in prison for years.

Racism and injustice have been a big issue for many years including today. *Twelve Angry Men* is a great film and enjoyable to watch. The crazy loud arguments led to setting a young boy free. Each juror learned a lesson about themselves and so does the audience. That one meeting changed everything. When that one juror realized what he was saying about the poor boy was racist, he had a change of heart, so did another man. Even though much of what he was saying was not that racist, he did believe in those stereotypes. Many of the jurors believed the young boy was not good, and maybe he wasn't. However, you should never call someone a bad person based on the color of their skin or where he/she came from. Also, the justice system is awful. Many young kids today are going to jail with failing evidence. There is a need to for change.