

Deborah Davilmar  
College Writing II  
Professor Garcia  
1/5/20

### Twelve Angry Men - The

Sidney Lumet's "Twelve Angry Men" is a 1957 film that focuses a following discussion of a closing argument of a murder trial. Twelve members of the jury must debate the fate of an eighteen-year-old man who allegedly killed his father that can result in an automatic death sentence. However, eleven of the Jurors voted guilty while one of the Jurors voted not-guilty. Many social issues arise from their discussion that varies from the topic of race which intertwined with justice in judgment. This is important because it is still relevant in our present-day American society even though this film came out over sixty years ago. This film paints the picture of the sociological impact of bias to give an idea of what goes behind the scenes when a Jury decides your fate. The objective is to reveal the true definition of innocence, justice, and objective truth in our American justice system. The purpose of the American legal system is to encourage justice and innocence. However, This film exposes the little flaws in the American justice system and describes that the abstract concept of justice is not always to be simple or clear.

The Jury of men in this film may vote for their answers based on their personal experiences or prejudices. For example, Juror three's estrangement from his son. He has not spoken to his son in three years, which encourages him to vote. This is problematic because his emotions are interfering with the debate of the murder of the young man's father. Eventually, most of the Jurors decided to vote to finish this discussion right away. Many of the Jurors took their values and personal experiences in the way of their decisions to avoid the difficult process.

It was Juror eight who pushed the discussion further to look through all the evidence. This is harmful to the American justice system because it defeats the purpose to fight for Justice. This portrays how easily many cases can be affected by the idea of bias. As a result, the man may end up in the electric chair for this crime he did not commit. This reflects the issue with the American Justice system; it renders the conversation of civic responsibilities of American citizens should be taken seriously as a right and honor of being a member of that democratic society.

Another example is the racial bias that is present throughout the movie. Racism always came in hand in the American Justice system. For example, Juror #10 reveals his racist feelings by stating “ Look at the kind of people they are - you know them.” He also says in Act I “Well, it’s element. They let the kids run wild. Maybe it serves him right.” This implies that due to the verdict’s Hispanic ethnicity, he implies that his area consists of a lack of education, poverty and violence. This scene is important because it exposes the implicit bias of people of color in the justice system. This is harmful because it deems people of color as second class to white Americans. This brings us to my movements such as Black Lives Matter, a movement that is a response to police brutality and discrimination against African Americans in the judicial system. This movement became popular due to the death of Alton Sterling, a black man that was shot and killed by the police. Ever since, more activists began to rise up against the discrimination of black americans. This scene gives us an inside scoop of the sociological perspective of Jurors to these decisions.

To conclude, the film explores the definition of racism, justice and innocence to our democracy. This film is important because it reflects the social issue that we have now that dates back to over sixty years ago. “Twelve Angry Men” reveals the problems that we have in our

society. I recommend this film because Director Sidney Lumet opens your eyes to the many conflicts that we battle in our American society. This powerful film discussed how strongly racism can come into play in their decisions. This questions the motive of the American judicial system and reveals the flaws can affect the people.