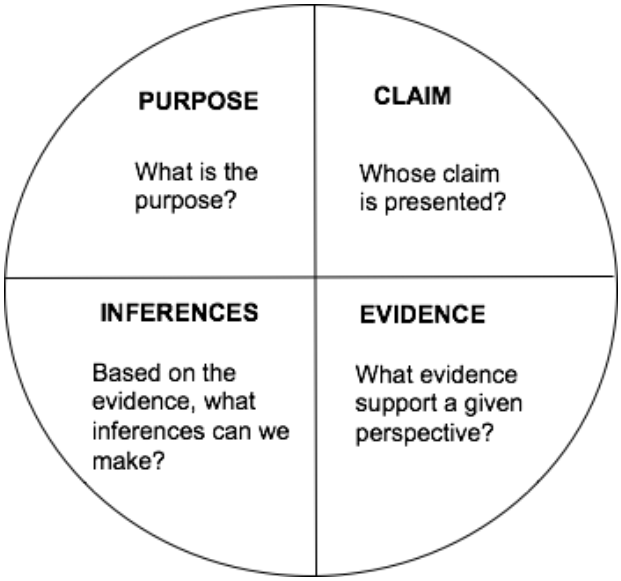
Socio-Scientific Issues

Lesson 5 Reasoning Skill Coach

Step 1

Read the graph to know the elements of reasoning.

Elements of Reasoning



Script: The court case of a stolen car

Step 2

Please read the opening statement to learn how the elements of reasoning are organized:

Opening statements

Plaintiff's Attorney: Your Honor and ladies and gentlemen of the jury: **[Purpose]** The defendant has been charged with the crime of driving or taking a car belonging to someone else, without the permission of the owner. **[Evidence 1]** The evidence will show that a 2004 Corvette was stolen on the night of February 8th. **[Evidence 2]** The next day the defendant was arrested driving the stolen car. **[Evidence 3]** The defendant's fingerprints were on the keys used to steal the car. **[Claim]** The evidence I present will prove to you that the defendant is guilty as charged.

Defense Attorney: Your Honor and ladies and gentlemen of the jury: **[Purpose]** Under the law my client is presumed innocent until proven guilty. During this trial, you will hear no real evidence against my client. **[Evidence 1]** You will come to know the truth: that Tom was just riding in a car stolen by someone else. **[Evidence 2]** After finding out that the car was stolen, Tom was just trying to do the right thing by returning the car to its owner. **[Claim]** Therefore my client is not guilty.

Step 3

©2021 Institute for Future Intelligence, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Please read the witness and defendant testimony to learn the related data/information:

Witness testimony

Police officer: On the afternoon of February 9th, I was patrolling the freeway and observed a red 2004 Corvette that fit the description of a stolen car. I pulled the car over near the downtown Martinez exit. In the car, I found a set of keys in the ignition. They looked like shaved master keys, the keys that have been filed down so that they will start all models of a type of car. They are used as tools to steal cars.

Police officer's answer to Defense Attorney: When I pulled the car over, I ordered the defendant to turn off the ignition, so I saw the defendant touch the keys. And I know Martinez Car Sales is about half a mile from the downtown Martinez freeway exit.

Expert: I was asked to check the keys for fingerprints. The prints I found on two of the keys were identical to the fingerprints taken from the defendant.

Expert's answer to Defense Attorney: I also found fingerprints on the keys which did not belong to the defendant. I don't know to whom they belong.

Defendant testimony

Defendant: On the afternoon of February 9, I was at the 7-11 Store and saw a guy pulled into the parking lot driving a 2004 red Corvette. I asked the driver how fast it was. He said to get in the car and he would show me. I got in the car and he drove onto the freeway going south toward Danville. The driver told me his name was Rick and he had stolen the car when we were on the freeway. He drove me to San Ramon. When we reached San Ramon, he said he was getting out and I could have the car. I started to drive to Martinez so I could return the car. Rick told me he took it from a car lot in Martinez. When the officer arrested me, I was on the freeway, just before the exit to downtown Martinez. I touched the keys when I turned the car off after the officer stopped me.

Defendant's answer to Plaintiff's Attorney: I was thinking of calling the police, but there wasn't a phone where we stopped, and I don't have a cell phone. Once I started back, I just kept driving. I wanted to drive the Corvette because it was a fast car. I knew the car was stolen at the time I was driving it.

©2021 Institute for Future Intelligence, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Step 4

Please apply what you learned above to the final argument. Fill in the blanks [____] with the appropriate elements of reasoning (i.e., **purpose, claim, evidence, inference**):

Jury instructions

Judge: To prove the crime charged against the defendant, the prosecution must prove three things to the jury:

First, that the defendant drove or took a car belonging to someone else; Second, that the owner did not give the defendant permission to drive or take the car; and Third, that the defendant intended to take away the owner's right to have the car, either permanently or temporarily.

Final arguments

Plaintiff's Attorney: Your Honor, and ladies and gentlemen of the jury: **[____]** The judge has told you that we must prove three things. **[_ __]** There is absolutely no question about the first two things we must prove. **[____]** First, the defendant was arrested driving a car belonging to the owner of Martinez Car Sales. **[____]** Second, the owner testified that no one, including the defendant, had permission to drive or take the Corvette. **[____]** Therefore, all we have to prove is that the defendant drove the car and intended to keep it away from the owner for at least a little while. **[____]** The defendant admitted wanting to drive the Corvette because it was fast. **[____]** The defendant knew the car was stolen, and says that he even thought about calling the police before driving it. **[____]** But the defendant didn't even try to walk to a telephone instead of driving the car and didn't even try to stop anywhere between San Ramon and Martinez to call the police. **[____]** That shows that the defendant intended to keep the car for at least a little while. **[____]** According to what the judge just told you, that is all we have to prove. **[____]** Based on the evidence, you must find the defendant **guilty.**

Defense Attorney: Your Honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury: **[____]** Tom was unlucky to get into a car with a man who had stolen that car. **[____]** He got into the car because he had never been in a Corvette before. **[____]** My client's fingerprints were found on the keys because he had to touch them when the officer pulled the car over. **[____]** But the prosecution's own expert told you that other fingerprints were found on those keys that could not be identified. **[____]** I suggest to you that they belong to the real thief: Rick. **[____]** Tom is an honest person and was only trying to return the car to its owner. If he had meant to keep the car, why would he drive it back to Martinez? **[____]** Remember that under the law my client is presumed to be innocent. **[____]** The prosecution must prove every part of its case beyond a reasonable doubt – that means that you must be very sure. **[____]** One of the things they must prove is that my client intended to keep the car from the owner. **[____]** My client is the only person who knows what he intended, and testified under oath that he wasn't trying to keep the car from the owner, but was trying to return it. The prosecution has presented no real evidence to you to show that this is not true. **[____]** That means that there is reasonable doubt and, therefore, you must find him **not guilty.**

©2021 Institute for Future Intelligence, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

©2021 Institute for Future Intelligence, Inc. All Rights Reserved.