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THE 25 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS A JURY NEEDS TO HEAR

PURPOSE

Jurors often remember simple principles better than complicated legal theories. These themes reinforce burden of proof, credibility, fairness, and the distinction between proof and assumption.

1. The burden of proof remains on the State.
2. A charge is not proof of guilt.
3. Assumptions are not evidence.
4. Credibility must be earned, not presumed.
5. The jury decides facts, not assumptions.
6. Every element must be proven.
7. Missing facts matter.
8. Missing investigation matters.
9. Titles do not replace proof.
10. Belief is not evidence.
11. Speculation is not evidence.
12. If a fact was important, it should have been investigated.
13. If a fact was important, it should have been proven.
14. The defendant does not have to prove innocence.
15. Fairness requires the same standard for everyone.
16. Credibility is based on performance, not position.
17. Evidence should answer questions, not create new assumptions.
18. A verdict should be based on proof, not habit.
19. Jurors are not required to guess.
20. Doubt created by missing proof is significant.
21. Calm testimony is not proof.
22. Confidence is not proof.
23. Procedure exists to protect fairness.
24. The burden never shifts.
25. Proof should precede enforcement.

LD CONTEXT

The Liberty Dialogues encourages disciplined examination rather than acceptance of assumptions. These themes help jurors focus on what was actually established rather than what may have been presumed.

FINAL PRINCIPLE

Jurors should leave deliberations focused on proof, credibility, and burden—not assumptions, habit, or appearances.