

The Future of the Courtroom – Innovative Jury and Courtroom Techniques

2017 DISTRICT CONFERENCE, U.S. DISTRICT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
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A Brief Primer on Juror Decision-Making

The Story Model



People employ cognitive schema to navigate and interpret the world

Jurors use schema to analyze, filter and interpret trial evidence to construct a coherent “story” that fits the facts and applicable law

A good “story” ...

- covers the provided information adequately (COVERAGE)
- Is consistent, plausible, and complete (COHERENCE)
- Is specific and includes detail (UNIQUE)

What jurors do well ...

Jurors are extremely conscientious about their tasks

Jurors do understand the nuances of burden of proof

Jurors collectively have good comprehension of evidence



And not so well ...

Even in relatively simple cases, the learning curve for jurors is steeper than it is for judges and lawyers

Jurors struggle to understand the law they are asked to apply



A middle-aged man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a brown suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie, stands in front of a chalkboard. The chalkboard has the text "Prof. Sy" and "555 -" written on it. The title "Order in the Classroom" is overlaid at the bottom in a yellow, bold, sans-serif font with a black drop shadow.

Order in the Classroom