



# Murder Mystery Shows THE CORNELL CONUNDRUM Teams Make Their Case

THEY improv: Comedy is Murder

For some of our clients, it is not about the show, it is more about the collaboration among teams to resolve the crime and to make their case as to why their suspect is the one who did it. While initially created for law firms to have a fun team building game for summer associates, **THEY improv** has come up with a program where teams are offered portfolios for a variety of suspects to the crime. They choose a suspect and then work to develop a presentation to make their case.

**The Situation:** Our facilitator is the District Attorney for the local jurisdiction. A crime was committed that rocked the community to its core. There is public clamor for an arrest in the case but there are several suspects that could have committed the crime and there is no easy way to determine which was the culprit. Physical evidence is lacking and a case must move forward quickly to allay the fears of an outraged community. Teams of prosecutors will each choose one of the suspects and make their case to the D.A. as to why theirs is the case that should move forward. Should theirs be the one prosecuted, it could make their careers.

This is not a court of law. This is a procedure within the Prosecutors Office. They are not presenting a case in front of a jury. As such, they can use any technique to make their case that they like. It can be a TikTok Video, a Music Video, an Interpretive Dance, an Infomercial, or any other method they like. The teams get creative and have to agree as a group as to how to make their case..

These events are highly flexible and are designed to get people to think outside of the box. The portfolios contain basic information about the history of the suspect, their relationship to the victim, the alibi they attempted to present as to where they were, and a short psychological profile. Other details the teams can embellish. At the end, it is the best presentation that wins prizes.

## **Question 1: What scenarios are available?**

This is a newer program and, while a great approach for some, it is a less-chosen path. We have several scenarios, but most of our themes have not been adjusted to the format. We can customize new scenarios for an additional \$1,000. For scenarios that have been created for our other approaches, of which we have many, a conversion would be half that price because some of the work in creating the characters has already been done..

## **Question 2: What size of groups work for this?**

We initially created this to be for up to six teams. The idea is that each has a different suspect to prosecute. Teams of four to ten people each seemed to make sense. Since then, we have recognized that we can have more than one team per suspect and can move through the prosecutions more quickly. We can also divide the people into two or three rooms. They make their case to one of our prosecutors and the best from each room then present in front of the whole group. This gives us more flexibility to handle groups of just about any size.

*Contact **THEY improv** to learn that our contributions to the success of your events is no mystery  
Email [info@THEYimprov.com](mailto:info@THEYimprov.com) or call (866) 219-4386*