

# Analyzing Judges

In **analyzing** you break down a topic or subject into parts so that it is easier to understand.

**You use analysis when you**

- study the good moves of an outstanding athlete
- pick out a new hairstyle or go shopping for new clothes
- learn the rules for a new game or learn how to use new software

In what other situations would you use analyzing?

# Evaluating Fairness

**Cluster Question:** Who judges?

**Definition:** With **analysis** you break down a topic or subject into parts so that it is easier to understand.

**Directions:** How can we tell if a judgment is fair or not? One way is to analyze judges and the way they handle decisions. Read each passage on the following screens and complete the analysis chart that follows it. An example is done for you.

## Evaluating Fairness

One of three judges in Lizzie Borden's murder trial instructed the jury to ignore media coverage and excuse Lizzie's conflicting statements. He said that there was no direct evidence linking her to the crime. He also stated that a respectable woman like Lizzie couldn't have killed anyone. He also barred three witnesses from testifying that Lizzie had tried to purchase poison the day before the murders. Lizzie was found not guilty.

## Evaluating Fairness

### **Who is the judge?**

one of three judges in Lizzie Borden's trial

### **List three words that describe the judge.**

prejudiced (in his view of “respectable women”); blind (to conflicting statements); and manipulative (bars witnesses from testifying)

### **In your opinion, is this judge fair? Explain your answer.**

No. He prejudiced the jury in a way to assure that a “respectable woman” would be acquitted.

## Evaluating Fairness

Two women each claimed to be the mother of the same child. So they took the matter before King Solomon. He gave this ruling: “Cut the child in two and give half to one and half to the other.” One woman pled with the king not to kill the child. To her the king said, “Do not kill him; you are his mother.”

# Evaluating Fairness

**Who is the judge?**

**List three words that describe the judge.**

**In your opinion, is this judge fair? Explain your answer.**

## Evaluating Fairness

Roy Bean, a gun-toting judge of the Old West, boasted that he was the “Law West of the Pecos.” As a local justice of the peace, he held court in his own bar and whatever he decided was final. Legend says that he freed more than one murderer and supposedly even fined a corpse for carrying concealed weapons.

# Evaluating Fairness

**Who is the judge?**

**List three words that describe the judge.**

**In your opinion, is this judge fair? Explain your answer.**

As you read the selections in this cluster, use the same method to analyze the people who judge.