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Psychology in the Courtroom: The Effects of Personal Information on Jurors' Verdicts and Perceptions of a Defendant

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Poster Presentation 8

**PSYCHOLOGY IN THE COURTROOM:
THE EFFECTS OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ON JURORS'
VERDICTS AND PERCEPTIONS OF A DEFENDANT.**

Megan Vitale, Rebecca Meyers, and Johnna Shapiro,
Department of Psychology, IWU.

With the criminal justice system revolving around juror decision- making, many researchers have begun to question the current methods that jurors/juries use to reach a verdict. One method, schema theory, focuses on jurors' use of categories and stereotypes to filter incoming information, which is later used to make decisions. The present study used person and event schemas in order to note the effects of different schema types on juror/jury decision making and perception of the defendant. The impact of juror decision- making in individual vs. group settings was also explored. Data analyzed to date will be presented and the implications of schema theory for the jury system will be discussed.