Perfect Copy #10

Week Twelve

Due 4-8-2021

Write 4 Times

In deciding whether to believe a witness, you should specifically note any evidence of hostility or affection that the witnesses may have towards one of the parties. Likewise, you should consider evidence of any other interest or motive that the witness may have in cooperating with a particular party. You should take into account any evidence that a witness may benefit in some way from the outcome of the case.

It is your duty to consider whether the witness has permitted any such bias or interest to color his or her testimony. In short, if you find that a witness is biased, you should view the testimony with caution, weigh it with care, and subject it to close and searching scrutiny.

Of course, the mere fact that a witness is interested in the outcome of the case does not mean the witness has not told the truth. It is for you to decide from your observations and after applying your common sense and experience and all the other considerations mentioned whether the possible interest of any party or witness has intentionally or otherwise colored or distorted his or her testimony. You are not required to disbelieve an interested witness; you may accept as much of the testimony as you deem reliable and reject as much as you deem unworthy of acceptance.