Perfect Copy #6

Week Seven

Due 3-4-2021

Write 4 Times

There are two types of evidence that you may consider in reaching your verdict. One type is direct evidence. Direct evidence is when a witness testifies about something he or she knows by virtue of his or her own sense. Circumstantial evidence is evidence from which you may infer the existence of certain facts. A simple example of circumstantial evidence is this: Assume that when you came into the courthouse this morning the sun was shining and it was a nice day. Assume further that the courtroom blinds were drawn and you couldn’t see outside. As you were sitting here, assume that someone walked in with an umbrella, which was dripping wet. A few minutes later another person entered with a wet raincoat. Because you cannot look outside of the courtroom and you cannot see whether it was raining, you would have no direct evidence of that fact. But, on the combination of facts that I have asked you to assume, it would be reasonable and logical for you to conclude that it had been raining. That is all there is to circumstantial evidence. You infer on the basis of reason, experience, and common sense from one established fact the existence or non-existence of another fact. Circumstantial evidence holds no less value than direct evidence, for the law makes no distinction between direct and circumstantial evidence but simply requires that your verdict must be based on all the evidence presented.