



The Courtroom as Cave Wall HON 251: Prompts for writing response #4

Instructions:

1. Format: 2 pages (-ish); 12-point type; double line-spaced
2. Deadline: Thursday, Oct. 11

Living in a Cave

Ironically, Plato's cave is a sort of prison, yet it seems an apt metaphor for the jury trial courtroom. Jurors are chained to a jury box, forced to view and give close attention to the "images" of evidence, testimony, exhibits, etc. that are allowed to be projected on the courtroom/cave wall. The truth? It's "out there" somewhere. In the light. It's not relevant in the cave.

 **REQUIRED:** Is this (the jury trial courtroom or cave) *what* the law should do, and is this *how* the law should do it?

Are you OK with the "reality" that lawyers do not concern themselves with innocence or guilt, as Brian Bojo described it to us, but rather with what that wall will look like (what images will be projected on that wall during the court proceedings)? Why or why not? Use the local Lance Walker case to frame your response.

In "The Cave," Plato claims that it is often easier to live with falsehoods (images) than with truth. We prefer our own reality, in other words. This is a philosophically broad question, but what (or who), in your experience, defines reality? How does one know the "truth" of one's own or of others' definitions or conceptions of reality?

 **REQUIRED:** "He had spoiled his eyesight" by seeing the "light" (paragraph 19—"And if he should..."). Why would the "prisoners" in the cave *need* to believe that and want to "kill" the returning "prisoner"? What relevance does this have to the "rules of evidence" as Brian explained them to us on Thursday? (I'd like everyone to at least address this question.)