



# Hiring Your Theorist

Selecting a theorist is like hiring someone for a job. There are many possibilities but you need to decide who is the best applicant.



# What to Consider

- ✓ What job are you hiring a theorist for?
  - Consider the kinds of characteristics that your theory will need to possess in order to be valuable for your study.
  - Ask yourself about your world view and how this might influence selection of a theory?



# Considering Your Applicants

- ✓ Identify a list of potential candidates (different kinds of theories) from:
  - ✓ Literature review
- ✓ Consider their strengths & weakness for the job:
  - ✓ What is helpful?
  - ✓ What is a problem?
- ✓ Select an applicant (theorist) who provides the best overall value.

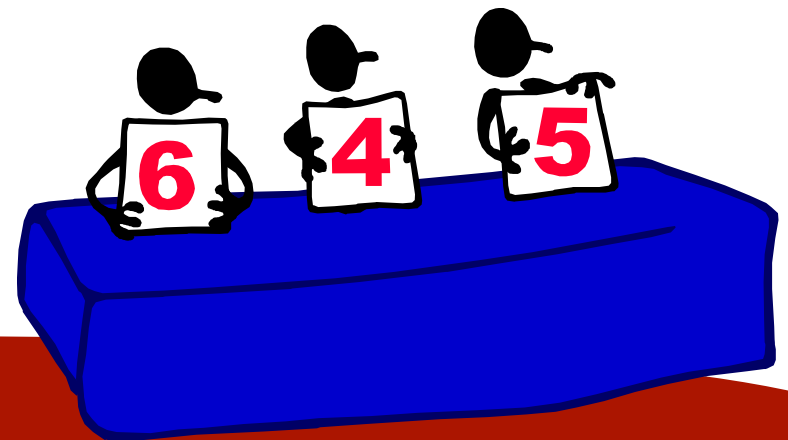
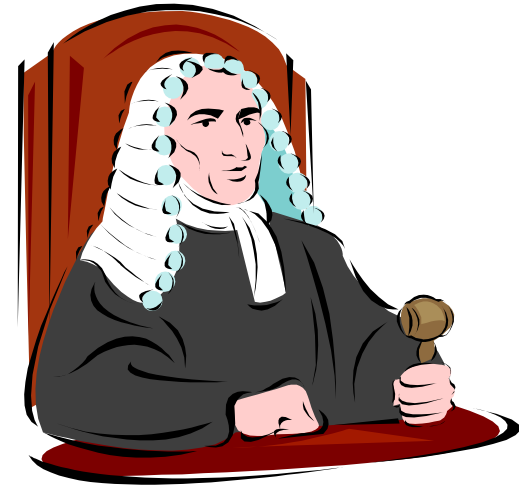


**Know thy enemy!!  
- be aware of other  
perspectives**



# Selecting a Theory

Select TWO theories & evaluate the strengths & weaknesses of each theory in providing a theoretical framework for your hot topic. Report back to the group with a summary of your ideas.



# With Your Selected Theory:

- Select one Theorist\* who is important for your research.
  - Be able to position the theorist in her/his field (in relation to other theories, theorists).
  - Identify the key concepts of the theory and how it might explain your topic area. Come to the seminar prepared to explain some of the key ideas or concepts in the theory tied to your hot topic.
  - Tell the group how the theory is important for, or will be used in, your study.
  - Speak for no more than 5 minutes.
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