**Topic:** Does the internet make jury bias more likely today than it did twenty years ago?

**Thesis Statement:** Pretrial publicity for high profile crimes has become more difficult to overcome by change of venue and sequestering of juries since the internet makes the news available to a larger portion of the population at incredibly fast rates.

Annotated Bibliography


The CIA Fact Book provides statistics on internet users in the United States compared to other countries. The Fact Book web site is produced by the United States Central Intelligence Agency which is a trusted source of information. The internet user statistics gives a date of 2008 which was more recent than other similar statistic web sites. The statistics are given in a graphical display with numbers next to each country, ranked in order of highest user. The graphics are clear and appropriate for the statistics and give a comparison of up to 216 countries, a high sample size.


The Pew Research Center’s Project for Excellence in Journalism uses empirical data to study the performance and methods of the news media in today’s society. This study was very recently done and shows the statistics behind new technologies and the way people use them to get involved with the news through social contacts. The Pew Research Center expresses itself as an unbiased source of information. This study in particular contains well researched and organized data necessary in understanding the changing world of journalism.

This journal article provides research into pretrial publicity when a jury deliberates a case. The authors’ credentials are listed and the journal is a well-respected scholarly journal in the psychology field. The article is timely and provides a scientific explanation rather than a social one in understanding how jurors exposure to pretrial publicity can unwittingly influence their decision.


In this e-journal published by the US Department of State the reader is led through the roles played by all participants in a US jury trial. This journal presents an unbiased view of each person’s role as well as common legal terms used at trials. This information is important in understanding the basic tenets of American law during a trial.


This is a United States Supreme Court case heard in March of 2010 as to whether or not Enron executive Jeffrey Skilling received a fair trial in part based on pretrial media exposure by the jury. The case’s currency makes this topic more relevant than older cases. The brief was found from a Google Scholar Legal search and simply states the facts as read by the Supreme Court in granting Skilling an audience.