

# *Bergeron v. Glampers*

The Harrison Bergeron Mock Trial

## Section 6

### After the Mock Trial

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# Socratic Discussion Essential Questions

1. What does it mean to be equal?
2. What did it mean to be equal in the *Bergeron v. Glampers* trial?
3. Is competition good, bad, or a little of both? Why?
4. What do you believe author Kurt Vonnegut wanted to convey to his readers? (What was the message or theme of the story?)
5. Why is the character Harrison Bergeron such a threat to the society of 2081?
6. What sort of life do you think the general population in this story leads in 2081?
7. Consider how “handicap” carries a negative connotation. How does this change your perception if instead we used the words “differently abled” when referring to people we previously called “handicapped?”
8. What is the origin of Vonnegut's handicapping ideas?
9. What do you think was the most damaging piece of evidence in trial? Why?
10. Should the plaintiffs/defendant have testified in the trial? Why or why not?
11. Should Harrison and the Ballerina been allowed to break the law in order to make a point? Why or why not?
12. Explain a mistake you think the plaintiffs made in the trial.
13. Explain a mistake you think the defense made in the trial.
14. Explain what you think was the strongest argument from the plaintiff.
15. Explain what you think was the strongest argument from the defense.
16. Were you satisfied with the verdict? Why or why not?
17. Was there any evidence that could have been introduced in the trial to make you change your mind about the verdict? Explain.
18. Were all people in the story/case able to achieve “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” under the equality amendments enforced in 2081? Explain your reasoning.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Bergeron v. Glampers*  
**Final Reflection**

1. What did you know about the justice and trial courts before the Mock Trial?

2. What did the Mock Trial experience teach you?

3. How do you think participating in this Mock Trial will help you in the future?