

Analyzing the Case

Directions: In this activity, your group will role-play a judicial examination board that is reviewing the case of Todd Willingham to determine if he was convicted properly. After viewing and taking notes on both FRONTLINE video chapters, consider the evidence from both investigations using the chart below. After each point of evidence, place a checkmark indicating whether you feel the state's case or the re-examination of the evidence is more credible. Then provide your conclusion as to whether the state proved Willingham's guilt, and provide reasons for your conclusion.

| Key Evidence | The State's Case | Re-examining the Evidence |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Explanation of the liquid accelerant on the aluminum threshold plate | | |
| Explanation for Willingham's lack of burns or injuries | | |
| Explanation of the burn patterns on the floor | | |

From the evidence of both investigations, do you feel Todd Willingham was guilty of starting the fire and murdering his children? Provide reasons for your conclusion.