

The Kelley Murder – an exercise in effective group discussion
and problem solving

By Peter Pappas – for more lessons go to <http://peterpappas.com/>
Directions and another mystery: www.edteck.com/rigor/lessons/detective

Task: Mr. Kelley was murdered. Students must find the murderer, the weapon, the time of the murder, the place of the murder, and the motive.

Clues: These clues should be printed out and cut into individual clues on separate pieces of paper. **Answer on Page 3 of this document**

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When the elevator man saw Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kelley was bleeding slightly, but he did not seem too badly hurt.

Mr. Kelley had destroyed Mr. Jones' business by stealing all of his customers.

The incident occurred in an urban neighborhood, the type where many violent acts occur.

Mr. Kelley's body was found in the park.

The elevator man went off duty at 12:30 a.m.

Police were unable to locate Mr. Scott after the murder.

Miss Smith said that the police don't care about the spread of illegal drugs.

The elevator man said that Miss Smith was in the lobby of the apartment building when he went off duty.

Miss Smith said that nobody left the apartment building between 12:25 a.m. and 12:45 a.m.

An empty crack vial was found outside the apartment house.

The elevator operator reported to police that he saw Mr. Kelley at 12:15 a.m.

A knife with Mr. Kelley's blood on it was found in Miss Smith's yard.

The elevator man saw Mr. Kelley's wife go to Mr. Scott's apartment at 11:30 p.m.

Mr. Kelley's body was found at 1:30 a.m.

When he was discovered dead, Mr. Kelley had a bullet hole in his thigh and a knife wound in his back.

Only one bullet had been fired from Mr. Jones' gun.

The knife found in Miss Smith's yard had Mr. Scott's fingerprints on it.

Mr. Jones said private citizens have the right to keep handguns.

The elevator operator said that Mr. Kelley's wife frequently left the building with Mr. Scott.

The elevator man saw Mr. Kelley go to Mr. Scott's room at 12:25 a.m.

When police tried to locate Mr. Jones after the murder, they discovered that he had disappeared.

Mr. Jones had told Mr. Kelley that he was going to kill him.

Mr. Kelley's bloodstains were found on the carpet in the hall outside Mr. Jones' apartment.

The elevator man was twice convicted for DWI.

Mr. Jones shot at an intruder in his apartment building at 12:00 midnight.

It was obvious from the condition of Mr. Kelley's body that it has been dragged a long distance.

Miss Smith saw Mr. Kelly go to Mr. Jones apartment building at 11:55 p.m.

Miss Smith often followed Mr. Kelley.

Mr. Kelley's bloodstains were found in Mr. Scott's car.

The bullet taken from Mr. Kelley's thigh matched the gun owned by Mr. Jones.

Mr. Kelley had been dead for one hour when his body was found, according to a medical expert working with police.

Answer – After receiving a superficial gunshot wound from Mr. Jones, Mr. Kelley went to Mr. Scott's apartment where Mr. Scott killed him with a knife at 12:30 AM because Mr. Scott was in love with Mr. Kelley's wife.

This exercise is adapted from:  
*Learning Discussion Skills Through Games*  
Gene and Barbara Dodds Stanford  
Citation Press / Scholastic Books 1969

The teacher can easily write clues for a mystery of his own creation, simply making sure that every clue is important. Some of the clues can serve as distractors, but these must be contradicted by other clues. The group might wish to attempt transferring their new skills to a subject-matter problem, one in which all students are in command of the basic information needed for solving it.