

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

By Peter Pappas – www.peterpappas.com

How to run this lesson <http://wp.me/p84uY8-1g>

From: Learning Discussion Skills Through Games by Gene and Barbara Dodds Stanford,
Citation Press / Scholastic Books 1969 (out of print)

Task: Mr. Kelley was murdered. Students must use clues to collaboratively find answers to five questions:

1. who was the murderer?
2. the weapon?
3. the time of the murder?
4. the place of the murder?
5. the motive?

Answer Key

Murderer? Mr. Scott

Weapon? Knife

Time of the murder? 12:30 AM

Place? Mr. Scott's Apartment

Motive? Mr. Scott was in love with Mr. Kelley's wife

Clues: These clues should be printed out and cut into individual clues on separate pieces of paper.

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 area where there had been many crimes.

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.