

# IDEAS 80

**International Online Teachers Society  
Debate  
Educational Materials For  
Advance and Upper Intermediate  
Students**



**International Online Teachers Society  
Publishing Committee**



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## JUDGE NOT, LEST YE BE JUDGED

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How we judge others is how we will be judged. This makes the role of judges, whether in a court of law or a contest of some sort, very significant. We often hear of things such as impartial judgment, biased judgment, deplorable judgment, and so on. A judge's mishandling of a case means that he was unable to render proper judgment. A bungled judgment is always as bad as a judgment that's made based on mere hearsay or negligence. It would be better to restrict oneself in such cases. This is specially so when a judge holds a specific interest in a particular case.

We have to make judgments very often in our own lives. They may be as trivial as which of two dresses looks better for a party, or as vital as which of our two children holds the greater responsibility. In both cases, deciding on one option can mean we go with one and leave out the other. There's always a risk that whatever judgment we make can cause irreparable, irreversible damage. For the choice of dress, we may look great during the party or end up looking like we threw something on unthinkingly. For the choice between which child holds greater responsibility, we may end up teaching one to hate us forever while keeping the other one's loyalty.

That is the very reason why we need to make judgments without haste, but only after very careful consideration. We do not want to judge too harshly either, for even Our Creator is never harsh. We need to make judgments based on the merits of a particular situation or event and not on what people want to hear but on what the circumstances warrant. The bible says, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." However, there are always those among us who need to judge because the situation needs judgment. In those situations, they are only doing their job. If no one is left to render judgment, chaos could potentially erupt. And although the judgment might not be popular or palatable to some, it is still the greater good that dictates the choice to be made.

I have never been invited to render judgment on particular events or situations outside of the home. Fortunately, my role as a parent has entitled me only to make judgments on my children's future and their day-to-day existence: the school they should go to (public school or public school? LOL); the degree they can take (and that I can afford for them); the time they need to be home (too late or too early?); manner of dressing (is this dress too short or are these pants too tight?); and so on and so forth.

Thank God for small blessings!

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Have you ever rendered any major judgments? Be able to talk about that situation in class.
2. Why is it always difficult to make judgments? Cite examples, as needed.
3. Would you want to do the work of a judge in a court of law? Why or why not?
4. Why is judging for a beauty contest different from judging in a court of law? Elaborate on your answer.
5. Have you ever been judged unjustly? Talk about what happened.



## OF THE JUDGMENTS THEY MAKE

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One of the most watched events of the past year was the rendering of judgment on the country's highest magistrate. Watching the distinguished lawmakers expound on the merits of the Chief Justice's case as against those presented by people who filed the impeachment case was a wonderful learning experience for me. However, after some time, I slowly grew tired of the endless justifications that seemed to progress ever so slowly, save for that delivered by one senator who acknowledged his inability to express himself in English and simply informed everyone of his judgment: Guilty. Had all the lawmakers decided to just utter that single word instead of hammering over and over again on a similar case many years ago, we would all have been able to focus on what we needed to do that day.

In my case, I had to beg off from online work because it took the greater part of the afternoon to watch the judgment proceedings. Of course, we can't blame our respected lawmakers for explaining themselves on their judgments. Everyone needed to know why they decided as they did. But hearing the same argument over and over can become annoying. Well, I guess that's just something they had to do, people. It wasn't upon us to hurry things up. The rendering of judgment was historic mainly because it was the country's Chief Magistrate that was to be judged. He was someone who had had years of experience rendering judgment on others, and was to be judged by those tasked to make laws that he was supposed to exercise judgment on. It was also ironic to see him in the dock.

Despite everything he was supposed to have done, I still consider the man a devoted family man. He was probably doing what he thought best to protect his own family's interests. However, because of the very fact that he knew the law and was supposed to be the go-to guy in efforts to uphold the constitution, what he did was still beyond accepting or comprehending. Getting away easily should not even have entered his mind. It should have hindered him from contemplating on doing what he was accused of doing.

Many years down the road, may we never find any of our lawmakers liable to be judged for acts that make a mockery of our country's constitution. They are lawmakers, they structure laws. There's always the risk that they know how to flout those laws they create. May they not be judged as they have judged, for that will surely be a sad day once more. As we elect future leaders in May this year, may we use wise judgment and clear discernment of every candidate's real purpose: is it to serve or to use their positions to serve their own selfish ends?

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Has there ever been a particular event in your country's past or present history where a political leader or government official was sentenced? Be able to talk about it in class.
2. How do you think someone being judged feels? Elaborate on your answer.
3. How can errors of judgment be avoided in life? Cite specific examples as needed.
4. What qualities/characteristics should a judge possess? Be able to expound on each quality/characteristic.
5. Should personal criteria affect the rendering of judgment? Why or why not?



## ACCEPT JUDGMENT HUMBLY-GROW STRONGER AFTER

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I am deathly afraid of being judged. The thought of being judged scares me because people can be so wrong sometimes. We don't carry equal capacities to render judgment. I don't present myself as being the best judge either. This is why I recognize the weaknesses in others. I respect other people's judgments. I appreciate that there can be times when others are called to render judgment. What is scary in that prospect is the risk of making unsound judgments. When I study a job offer in my online work, I need to exercise diligence before deciding whether to take the job or to decline it. There have been times when I made errors of judgment, or when others made errors of judgment on me.

Such as before the past year ended when I accepted this job offer from someone who had seemed genuinely friendly and helpful. In my line of work, we have to rely on emails and online communication lines to relay questions and answers and to transmit completed work. Sometimes, when we're lucky, our clients want to communicate via Skype. But more often than not, we work "blind". We don't see our clients ever and they don't see us except for the profiles we have in our worksite. We simply rely on feedback on each of our pages before we decide on which client/contractor to accept/hire for a specific job.

We judge based on trust. Going back to that job offer I was talking about, the client had always found nothing to complain about with the submissions I made to her before. But when I billed for a particularly comprehensive and thoroughly-researched write-up she had issued instructions for me to craft, she raised hell about the work time, even threatened to give me a bad feedback score. I found that deplorable, but what could I do? I was just a helpless contractor who relied on good feedback scores to snag me the next job.

Anyway, the issue was resolved by the worksite administration. They said everything in my work diary was in accordance to existing policies, and they didn't find anything to question about my work input. However, I decided to err on the side of caution. I decided to give the client full refund of what she had paid me, and gave her a cryptic message to make her see I wanted no bad blood to exist between us. In other words, I wanted to protect my reputation and the best way I could do this was by being humble. So sue me!

Others may judge this as weakness and admission of guilt on my part, but it was never that. Sometimes, the judgment we make hurts others more than we know it. But it is upon those others to make us see our errors of judgment so that we may not commit the same mistakes again. In my case, I hoped that was the end of it. And it was, thank God!

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How do people sometimes make errors of judgment?
2. How do you fix errors of judgment? Cite examples, if necessary.
3. "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Explain this saying in detail and through examples.
4. What would you have done if you had been in the writer's shoes?
5. Why should we never make hasty judgments on other people?



## SOUND JUDGMENT - SOUND CONCLUSION

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People underlying various circumstances in their lives do not always have a sound judgment and when it comes to decision making do not also have a sound conclusion. Yes there are varied reasons why we should have a sound judgment and not a poor judgment. Whatever it is that we are trying to arrive at and come up with, we should be able to discern what is good and sound judgment. Definitely, we would like other people to trust us when it comes to decision making. This is the sole reason why we need to have a sound judgment and come up with a sound conclusion.

There will always come a time when we tend to be biased on our judgment of how we deal with people. But if you want your peers and subordinates to trust you, then we should have a sound judgment. It is very important to have this for having one will help us develop our credibility as an individual. Most of the time, people should practice being objective and not having that immanent state of mind alone. It is true that sound judgment is based upon an evaluation of the facts.

If you want to be a reasonable person, then we must be very careful to ensure other people's emotions, feelings, assumptions, expectations and even their opinions. We should always be aware of our decisions and that nobody could use it for us to change our actions and impair our better judgment or even sway our opinions. Bear in mind that we should always ponder at our words that we use, for whether spoken or unspoken it could have a great power. When we are caught in a fix and should come out with a fair judgment, one must not be prejudiced or biased over that particular situation. Let us have that habit of practicing to have sound decisions all the time.

A person who often base his judgment on faulty reasoning and is clouded by his emotions, almost always arrive at a wrong conclusion and are not able to derive a sound judgment. Sometimes, people even practice sweeping generalizations which should not be the case. When we base our conclusions and inference on this, we come up with an unfounded decision. Let us beware of having false dilemmas because of our unfair or impaired judgment. This is especially true with the managers who run the office. They should always make it a point to have a sound judgment.

When managers try to see and consider all the sides of an issue and viewpoints are carefully weighed, then he makes a sound judgment. When these balanced facts and viewpoints are objectively evaluated, then rest assured that the manager comes up with a fair judgment. For effective and sound judgments, managers should make a thorough check of their emotions. We too should be like these managers, who are not risk-averse but we should be able to weigh all the facts and the two sides of the coin before making a sound judgment and arrive at a sound conclusion.

Questions for discussion:

1. When was the last time you had a sound judgment? Explain your answer.
2. Is it worth it to have a sound judgment and come up with a sound conclusion? Why or why not?
3. How could you practice better judgments all the time?
4. Cite an incident or event when you did not have a sound judgment and how did you address this dilemma.
5. Are you biased with the people around you or do you practice fair treatment and come up with a sound judgment? Justify your answer.





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