

The Case of Jesse Washington: Discussion Questions

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Name: _____

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1. What evidence did the police have on Jesse Washington? Did it appear to be enough to convict someone of murder? Why or why not?
2. Did Jesse Washington's educational level and mental capacity factor in to this case? Why?
3. What was your first reaction when you saw the photos?
4. Did the size of the crowd that participated in the lynching surprise you?
5. What does the size of the crowd tell you about public opinion?
6. How do you determine who is guilty of the murder of Jesse Washington when so many people participated? How should we hold society responsible?
7. How should we honor those African Americans who were killed this way?