

Objections Practice Sheet Answer Key

Read the question or witness testimony, write the correct objection, and explain your reasoning.

Sample Question or Testimony	Objection	Reasoning
On direct questioning, the attorney asks General LeMay, "You saw evidence of drill presses in the burned out residential neighborhoods didn't you?"	Leading question	Lawyers on direct cannot ask questions that are looking for specific answers - they must ask general questions and let the witness relate what he saw.
General LeMay testifies, "I knew the Japanese emperor would not stop fighting. We were friends once and I got to know him pretty well. He was psychotic and that prevented him from stopping this madness."	Calls for conclusion	General LeMay is not an expert on psychology and therefore he cannot give an opinion on the emperor's state of mind. If he left out the part about knowing him well it would be speculation also because he would have no personal knowledge of the emperor's alleged condition.
Lawyer asks on cross-examination, "We all know you murdered a man in your youth General LeMay, and that tendency never went away did it? You were a murderer then and a mass murderer now."	Unfair use of character evidence	A bad act or character flaw in the past does not necessarily prove one in the present. The present case is based on the present evidence and attempting to prejudice the court with prior bad character is not allowed.
While discussing the bombing campaign in the Pacific, the lawyer on cross-examination asks, "General LeMay, your wife and you had been having some trouble in your marriage, hadn't you?"	Relevance	Unless the lawyer can show that this affected his judgment, it is not relevant to the case.
Lawyer on direct questioning asks, "What did General Arnold tell you to do?"	Hearsay	The court does not want to hear second-hand stories about what someone said - if they want to know what General Arnold said, they will bring him in and have him testify himself under oath. To look for hearsay, listen for keywords like "said," "told," "say."
Lawyer on cross-examination asks, "You were trying to terrorize the Japanese population into surrender, weren't you General LeMay?"	Argumentative	This is a central point the plaintiffs are trying to prove - they cannot simply turn it into a question and ask the witness, knowing he would say no or hoping he would stutter, in an attempt to grandstand or make a point to the court.
Lawyer on direct questioning asks the witness, "General LeMay, what was going through that bombing commander's mind?"	Calls for speculation	There is no indication General LeMay had personal knowledge of what was going on in that bombing commander's mind.

Objections Practice Sheet Answer Key cont.

Sample Question or Testimony	Objection	Reasoning
Lawyer on cross asks, "General LeMay, were you were having trouble making the B-29 program into a success?" General LeMay answers, "The B-29 program was one of the best investments our military ever made, when General Arnold started the program, nobody thought it would work."	Nonresponsive witness	The lawyer was asking for a yes or no answer essentially and LeMay chose not to answer the question as asked.
Lawyer on direct asks, "General LeMay, can you describe your military career for the court?"	Calls for narrative	The answer to this question would be way too long - the lawyer is essentially asking the witness to tell a long story.
On cross-examination the lawyer asks, "You don't really care about civilians do you? Why did you bomb civilians if you care about them? Answer the question!"	Badgering the witness	This is just an attempt to provoke the witness into an emotional response or leave them tongue tied and stuttering. It may be good for TV, but it is not allowed in a real courtroom.
Lawyer asks on cross, "You knew there would be large civilian casualties didn't you?" LeMay answers, "Yes." Lawyer asks, this time in a triumphant tone, "So, you KNEW there would be large civilian casualties?"	Asked and answered	Once the witness has answered a question they do not have to answer it again. This is also flirting with the line on badgering the witness.
Lawyer asks on direct questioning, "Tell the court what happened next, and tell us how you felt about it."	Compound question	This is asking the witness to answer two separate questions.