**The Staircase – Chapter 1**

*As you watch the video, answer the following questions. They are in chronological order as they appear in the film.*

1. What date did Kathleen Peterson die?
2. When did officers begin to suspect Michael had something to do with Kathleen’s death?
3. How does the state believe Kathleen died?
4. What was Michael Peterson charged with?
5. What 2 theories do the defense attorneys consider (as far as what happened to Kathleen)?
6. What did the autopsy results show?
7. What did not add up about Michael’s time line for Kathleen’s death?
8. How does Dave Rudolph see his role as a defense attorney (what is his job)?
9. What is a cast-off pattern? Were there cast-off spatters present at the crime scene? What does this indicate?
10. How does the defense believe Kathleen died?

Based on what you’ve seen thus far, if you were a juror in the case, would you find Michael Peterson guilty or not-guilty of first-degree murder?

**The Staircase – Chapter 2**

*As you watch the video, answer the following questions. They are in chronological order as they appear in the film.*

1. What information came out about Michael Peterson’s past that damaged his case?
2. What does the state believe caused the argument that led to Kathleen’s death?
3. How did the defense discuss their team strategy to improve their case? (As in, what method did they use to visualize their argument?)
4. Do you believe Kathleen knew her husband was bi-sexual? Does that impact your belief of his guilt or innocence?
5. How does the defense prepare Michael for the stand?
6. How much money TOTAL (listen until the end of the conversation) has the Peterson family spent on Michael’s defense?
7. Why does Michael Peterson say “the poor go to jail”?
8. What did Michael Peterson do (in the past) that he believes biased the District Attorney against him?
9. How does the defense team test their strategy (concerning the blood spatter analysis) prior to going to trial?
10. How does the test jury respond to Dr. Lee? How can the defense use this information to better prepare for trial?

Based on what you’ve seen thus far, if you were a juror in the case, would you find Michael Peterson guilty or not-guilty of first-degree murder?

**The Staircase – Chapter 3**

*As you watch the video, answer the following questions. They are in chronological order as they appear in the film.*

1. What was the original determination about the cause of death in Elizabeth Ratliff’s case?
2. How does the media coverage of Ratliff’s death impact the public opinion of the case?
3. Who shows the defense attorneys the home where Elizabeth Ratliff lived?
4. Describe Mike and Elizabeth’s relationship.
5. What is Michael’s reaction to the news that Elizabeth’s body will be exhumed?
6. Where will the new autopsy be completed?

Based on what you’ve seen thus far, if you were a juror in the case, would you find Michael Peterson guilty or not-guilty of first-degree murder?

**The Staircase – Chapter 4**

*As you watch the video, answer the following questions. They are in chronological order as they appear in the film.*

1. What are the results of the new autopsy on Elizabeth Ratliff?
2. What is odd about the language in the autopsy report?
3. Is the autopsy report given to the media? How does Dave Rudolph feel about that?
4. How would the admission of the evidence about Elizabeth Ratliff’s death impact the trial, according to Rudolph?
5. Does the judge allow the evidence about Ratliff’s death to be admitted during trial?
6. What advice does the defense team give to Mike Peterson the day before the trial?
7. How does Dave Rudolph prepare for delivering his opening statement? What is his mental state at this time, based on his behavior?
8. What does Michael Peterson say he is most concerned with about the trial (not winning)?
9. What does the state believe was used to kill Kathleen Peterson?
10. Which side do you think had the most convincing opening statement?

Based on what you’ve seen thus far, if you were a juror in the case, would you find Michael Peterson guilty or not-guilty of first-degree murder?