In the community survey, it is determined what type of juror would be most favorable to the attorney's case. A series of questions are asked designed to reveal the attitudes and partialities of a certain community where the trial is to be held. Armed with the results of this type survey, an attorney can easily dispose of potential jurors who don't exibit the favorable characteristics. In the past, for example, prosecutors have attempted to keep blacks or young people from serving on juries, because members of those particular groups were thought to be sympathetic to criminals.

An attorney armed with a social survey will most likely look for things like manner of speech, body language, the way questions are answered during selection, facial gestures, and dress. He can compare these facts with the survey recomendations to help construct a "loaded " jury. If the case is important, friends and neighbors of a prospective juror may be approached by "random survey teams" or telephone surveys to learn more about the attitudes and behavior of the juror. These processes are becoming so intrusive that there is little difference between "selection" and tampering. The obstructing of justice is becoming so widespread that many federal judges are now conducting voir dire themselves, which is within their power. Of course, who is to say they can't be influenced either?

But, attorneys, being sly beyond their years, will always find another crack to squeeze through. Now enters the "shadow jury"! If you can't choose the juror, you can always employ other tactics to influence and convince them once they are empaneled. Since jurors tend to make decisions based on empathy more than evidence, a simulated or surrogate jury is used to gain "feedback" for lawyers on the most influential way to try their cases, how they can speak and dress in a way that will gain popularity with the jurors, and even what lawyers may not be popular with a certain group community.

A shadow jury will consist of people with similar backgrounds and attitudes of the actual jurors. They will be paid to sit in the courtroom and listen to the case and then at the end of the day suggest to the attorney the points they consider important and what factors would influence their decision. The attorney can then build his case around the points the shadow jury feels most important. This process has been used many times, successfully, by large corporations in winning lawsuits. Lawyers will even go as far as practicing their arguements in front of the shadow jury with psychologists making suggestions about persuasivness.

In a recent case, MCI Communications was awarded $1.8 billion against AT&T in an anti-trust suit. MCI admitted using mock juries and a developed profile of potentially favorable jurors. Their attorneys practiced their arguements in front of the mock juries and also instructed the witnesses on how to be more persuasive in their testimony presentation. Who knows what that "persuasivness" consisted of.

In an article concerning the use of these tactics in today's trials, Amitai Etzioni, Washington Post columnist, wrote..." Could any but the most affluent Americans compete with the state, once it began to apply these procedures to the prosecution?"

With the federal government having at its disposal unlimited resources, it is easy to see the probability of its gaining control over the most powerful entity in America...the jury. Those involved in the constitutional movement in America have witnessed, first hand, some very, very, strange verdicts handed down by "impartial" juries and even moreso, by judges. To hold an apple up in front of a juror and then convince him that it's a Volkswagon would be similar to the mind bending and truth twisting that we all have witnessed at many trials and hearings concerning the tax movement and the money issue.

I witnessed a demonstration on hypnosis in Boston in which Roy Masters from the F.H.U. in Los Angeles put a subject "under" his influence in a very casual style. He then proceeded to suggest that the subject perform certain acts (all clean). At that time Mr. Masters fully explained to the subject that he was hypnotized and that he was subject to his (Roy's) will rather than his own. After this revealing explanation to the subject, Mr. Masters asked him..."Why are you doing the things your doing?". The subject answered..." Because I want to.". The man's ego could not admit that it wasn't in control and so it compensated by accepting a lie. We all know that we can be made to buy pop-corn at the movies through subliminal suggestion or "convinced" to purchase certain products through hypnotic advertising, but, how far has the whole thing really gone? Are our thoughts our own? Do our words and actions reflect someone's suggestion? Have we been trained and primed to respond to words and phrases, sights and sounds...willing to cut our own throats at the snap of a finger?

How can a human being protect himself from these types of mental invasions? The key is AWARENESS and OBJECTIVITY. Knowing that the hypnotic forces are in full use is important. But what is more important is realizing our susceptibility to their evil influences. If we can keep these to important points in mind, no lawyer, social scientist, or other manipulators will be able to influence or twist the truth for very long. The greatest threat to the corrupt judicial system is an aware, objective, and educated juror who knows the Constitution. The Bible says... " You shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free." Let's all be free from the sinful mind-bending tactics so that we may restore ourselves and our America to the honor and dignity that is deserved.

(portions from Psycology Today)