

The Brendan Dassey Confession

Lessons to Learn for Interviewers

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2nd Interview – The Opening



A little later – What is your impression?

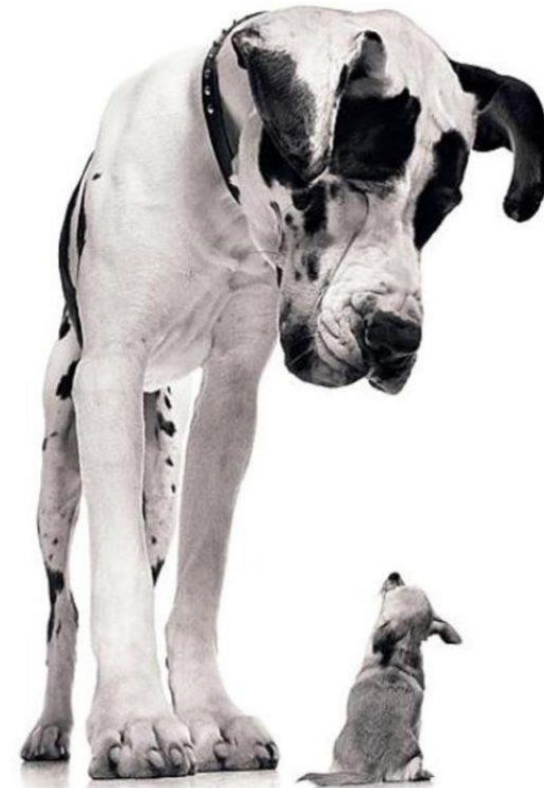


Would You Confess to a Crime You Did Not Commit?



3 Types of False Confessions

- Voluntary confessions – Lindbergh case
- Compliant confessions – a promise of something the interviewer wants in return for a confession
- Internalized false confessions – subject actually believes they could have committed the crime. Normally recanted shortly after leaving stressful situation.



Overconfidence?



What Do You Think?



Have They Made Up Their Mind? System 1 vs. System 2



Out of all the people freed by DNA evidence, how many confessed to the crime?

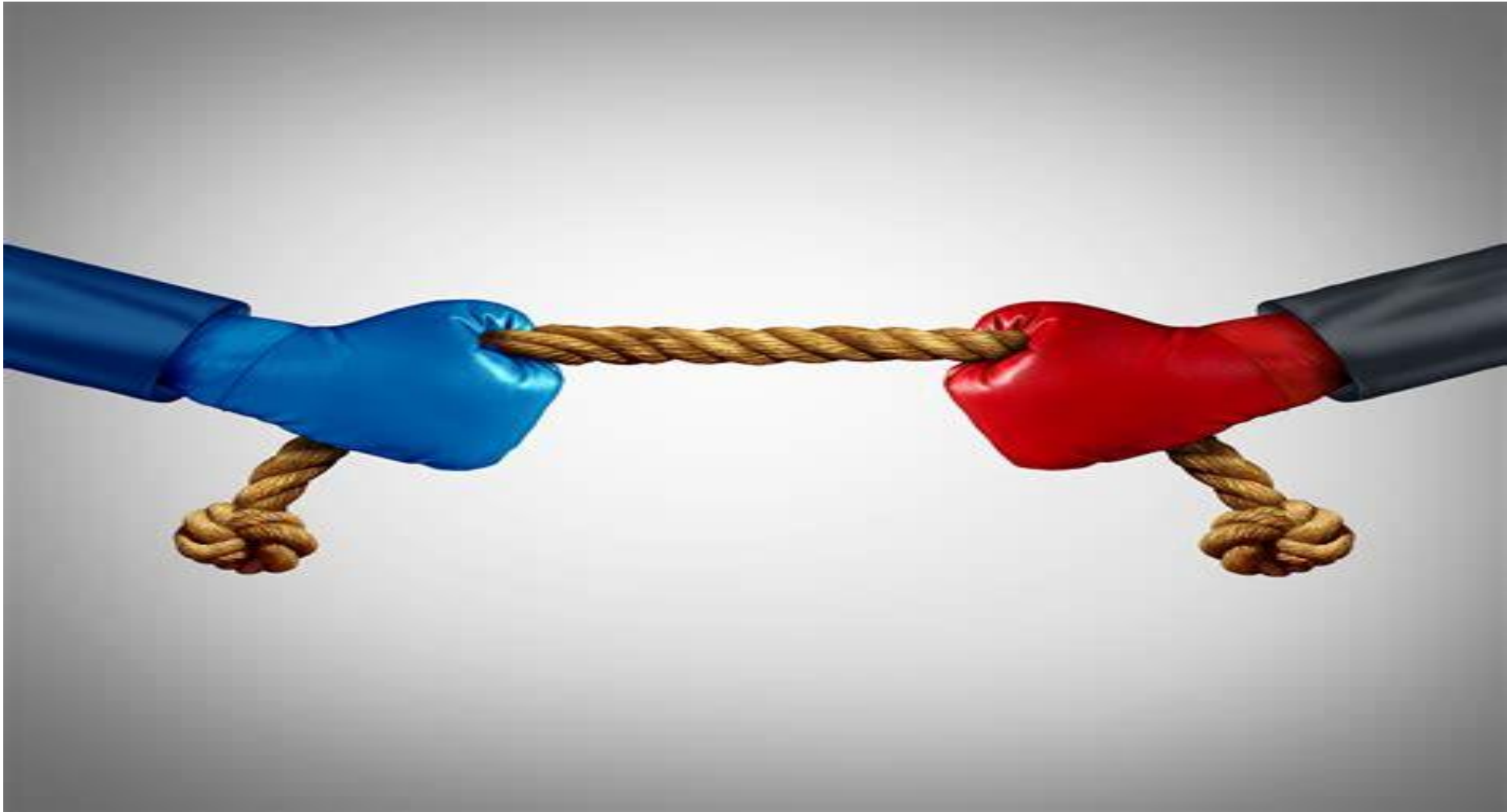
- 1%
- 10%
- 15%
- 25%
- 50%
- 75%



What do you do with inconsistent statements?



The “Us” Vs. “Them” Dilemma



Little Nudges



Cognitive Dissonance



Do You Recognize a Theme?



Confirmation Bias



Minimization and Maximization



Minimization

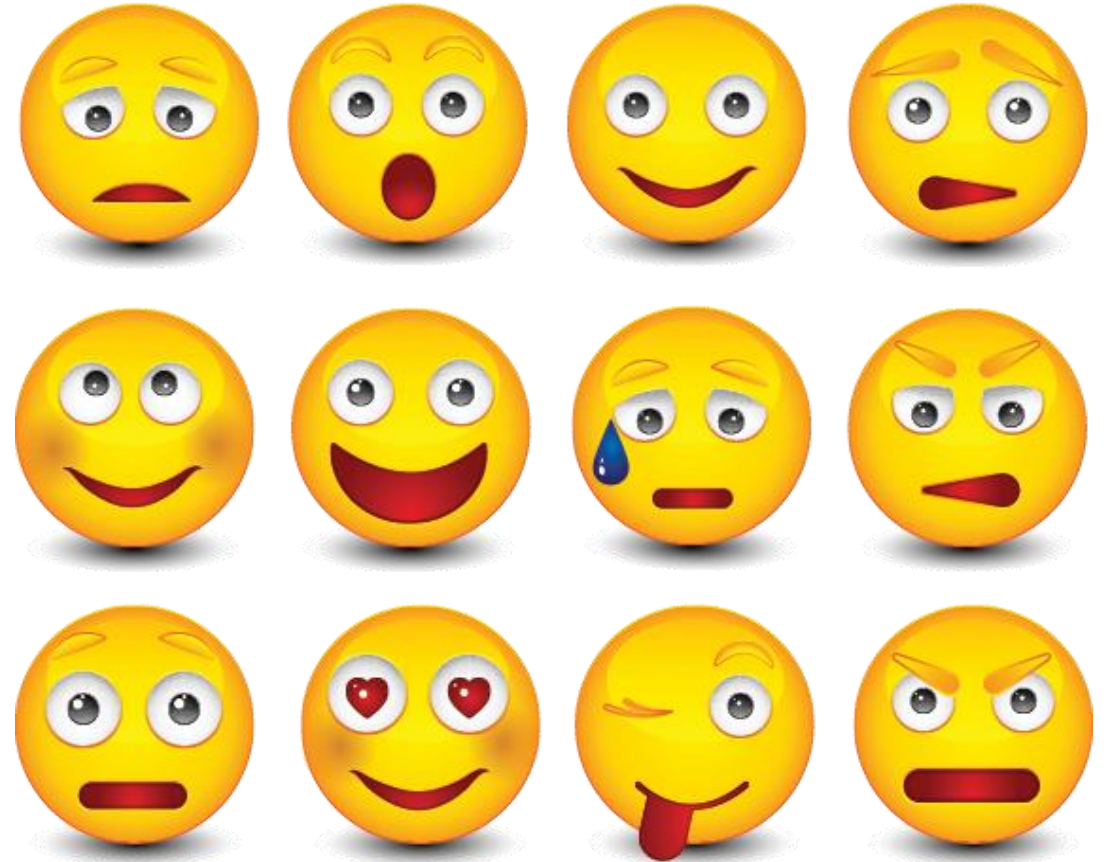


Maximization



Emotional Intelligence

- Self-Awareness (Being conscious of your emotional state)
- Self-Regulation (controlling or redirecting your emotions)
- Internal Motivation
- Empathy
- Interpersonal Skills (How can you navigate difficult conversations)



What happens when you get frustrated?



Is this System 1 or System 2

- Anger
- Frustration
- Deliberation
- Rationalization
- Bias
- Joy
- Consideration
- Empathy



Can Your Emotions Lead to Errors?



Contamination



How to Mitigate Bias

- Be aware that we all carry them.
- Find different mindsets.
- Have supervisory review.
- Record your interviews and go back to take a look and listen.
- Increase positive experiences with people in your out groups.
- Take breaks in the interview process to improve focus for both parties.
- Be aware of emotions.



Listen Carefully



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About Bret

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