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## **Cinematic Antithesis in *12 Angry Men*: The Use of Visual Rhetoric in Contrasting Two Approaches to Deliberative Processes**

**Abstract:** Deliberative processes are far from a favourite subject of filmmakers. Yet the 1957 classic *12 Angry Men* stands as a remarkable exception, its entire narrative unfolding through deliberative exchanges within a jury room. The film has been widely analyzed by scholars of law, politics, and film focused on the power of dissenting voices in a deliberative setting. In this paper, I take a different interpretive approach, focusing on the antitheses employed to illuminate contrasting attitudes toward deliberation itself. I identify key points of contention in the characters’ understanding of the deliberative process, examine how these tensions are cinematically rendered, and explore their deeper significance within the broader context of American deliberative culture.

**Keywords:** deliberative processes, deliberative culture, cinematic antithesis, visual rhetoric, *12 Angry Men*