The Judge’s Directions to the Jury & Important Terms

Directions: Read the opening lines of the play, in which the Judge speaks to the members of the jury. Write out a detailed definition for each term below, and provide a real world example that illustrates the term.

***JUDGE'S VOICE: Murder in the first degree… premeditated homicide… is the most serious charge tried in our criminal courts. You have heard a long and complex case, gentleman, and now it is your duty to sit down to try and separate the facts from the fancy. One man is dead. The life of another is at stake. If there is a reasonable doubt in your minds as to the guilt of the accused – then you must declare him not guilty. If – however – there is no reasonable doubt, then he must be found guilty. Whichever way you decide, the verdict must be unanimous. I urge you to deliberate honestly and thoughtfully. You are faced with a grave responsibility. Thank you, gentlemen.***

1. Pre-meditated homicide
2. Reasonable doubt
3. Guilty
4. Unanimous
5. Deliberate
6. Acquittal
7. Burden of proof
8. Fifth Amendment
9. Public Defender
10. Self-Incrimination