Aristotle Means

“Professor Means”



“Professor Means always says what he means and means what he says by all means!”

Lore:

Aristotle Means was a teacher at Themis Legal Academy and also a defence attorney. He had a firm belief in his philosophy that the “ends justify the means” and taught that a lawyer's job was to win no matter the cost. This clashed with fellow teacher- Constance Courte- who taught that a lawyer’s job was to find the truth.

According to the narrative, as a result the student body was split 50/50, with one half following Means’ philosophy and the other half following Courte’s philosophy. Furthermore due to his philosophy (and later on we have a concrete example), we know that Means’ has no qualms with forging evidence for whatever result benefitted him the most.

Means was in fact an alumnus at Themis Legal Academy (prior to being a defence attorney and later teaching there), he graduated as a valedictorian, displaying his brilliant academic skills and knowledge of the law.

“>Athena: But that scrap of paper with Hugh's name had the same mark as Prof. Courte's planner--
>Blackquill: Yes, about that... Those planners are bestowed upon all students graduating at the top of their class.
>Athena: Really?! So, then...

>Blackquill: Indeed. Once upon a time, Prof. Means was also awarded the same notebook."

Means (initially) comes off as very well-mannered and friendly (albeit with a creepy smile), however this is vastly different to his true self that he reveals in court once cornered which is far more aggressive and strict, acting like an angry teacher, going so far as to assault the court with chalk.

(VCI, TRI, FRI, PSI, WMI, PRI, RCI, GAI, Social Skills, Leadership, Influence + Influence Building, Social Engineering, Charisma, Relationship Management, Cognitive Discipline, Knowledge, Academics, Experience, Mass Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Fabrication, Persuasion, Crystallized + Fluid + Social Intelligence, Concrete Thinking, Critical Thinking, Emotional Facilitation, Emotional Perception, Emotional Understanding, Acting Skills, Emotional Management, Composure, Mental Fortitude)

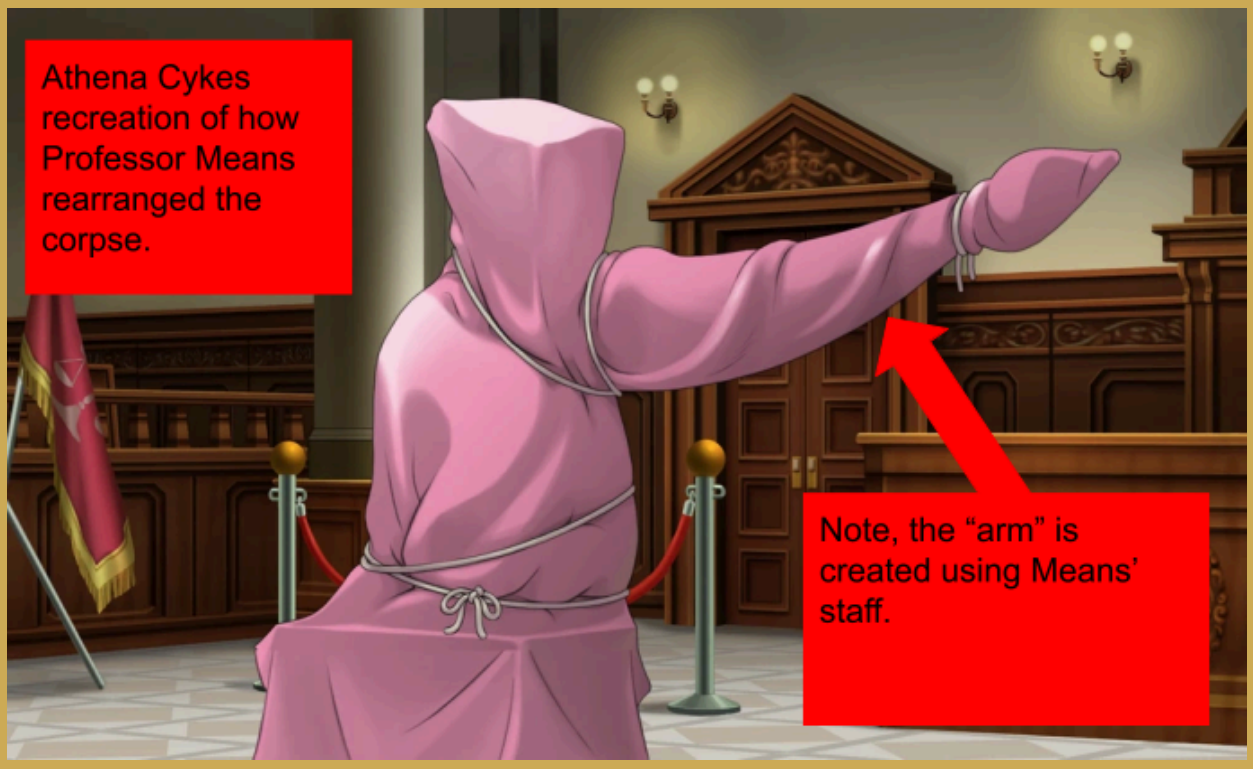
<u>Turnabout Academy - Plan:</u>

Means had been taking bribes for students to pass and get good grades, however, having been discovered through Juniper Woods overhearing one of his students discussing said bribes

with his parents, he is confronted by his colleague Constance Courte about the matter. As a result of this situation, Means murders Courte, impaling her with his staff on her side.

Aristotle uses his knowledge of the “mock trial” to stage Courte’s death in such a way that he can frame Woods. Means would use two banners (a school banner and a “Gavinners” banner) at the stage to get rid of the blood, using the Gavinners banner to then create a false bloodstain in the art room three stories above the stage. Having fabricated the evidence, Means then disposed of the banner in the school incinerator.

Means would then take advantage of the fact that Robin had been unable to finish her Phoenix Wright statue for the stage and position the corpse in such a way that it could resemble the unfinished statue, using a cloth to cover up the body. As a result of this, Means was able to safely leave the body alone until the next day without fear of it being noticed.



The following day, during the events of the school mock trial, Means used a prerecorded speech to create an alibi for himself and proceeded with his plan to frame Woods. He went to the art room and launched the remolded statue of Lady Justice down a makeshift pouch intentionally crashing it into the “statue” of Phoenix Wright (Courte’s corpse) and the statue of Klavier Gavin.



This would create a loud noise, alerting people to Courte's body.

Furthermore, to create more evidence that implicates Woods, Means would use the recorder tape to fabricate evidence of a woman - identified as Woods - screaming "You're a goner!" which he recorded during the mock trial as it was one of the lines. Unfortunately, whilst doing this, Means overlooked his speech and even though he deleted it on the recorder, he accidentally left white noise on the tape that lasted 10:35s (the exact length of his speech, more on this later). He hands the tape over to Hugh O'Connor (one of his students and an extremely close friend of Juniper Woods), telling the boy to give it to the police (naturally, without telling him that it's phony).

Finally, Means planned to take Woods' case himself, opting to be her defence attorney, all the while planning to use this to ensure that he couldn't be traced to the crime in its slightest. However, due to Athena Cykes firm commitment to defending her friend, Means was forced to give up on this, which would later result in his downfall.

(VSI, WMI, PSI, Fabrication, Misdirection, Scapegoating, Mass Deception, Concealment, Smearing, Planning Formulation + Intricacies + Coverage + Invincibility, Creative Thinking, Fast Thinking, Focused Thinking, Anticipation, Setting Traps, Gaslighting, Emotional Manipulation, Counter Difficulty)

A LOT OF "TURNABOUT ACADEMY" IS NOT NECESSARILY PLANNED BY ARISTOTLE, THE SEGMENT ABOVE EXPLAINS FULLY HIS ACTUAL PLAN; THE FIRST COUPLE DAYS WHERE SCUTTLEBUG, NEWMAN & O'CONNOR ARE INVOLVED HAVE FAR LESS TO DO WITH MEANS' WORK AND MORE TO DO WITH COINCIDENCE AND MISFORTUNE. THIS UNFORTUNATELY MEANS, THERE IS LITTLE TO DO OR SAY REGARDING IT - HOWEVER, WORKING THROUGH THOSE ISSUES IS A FEAT FOR ATHENA.

Turnabout Academy - Trial:

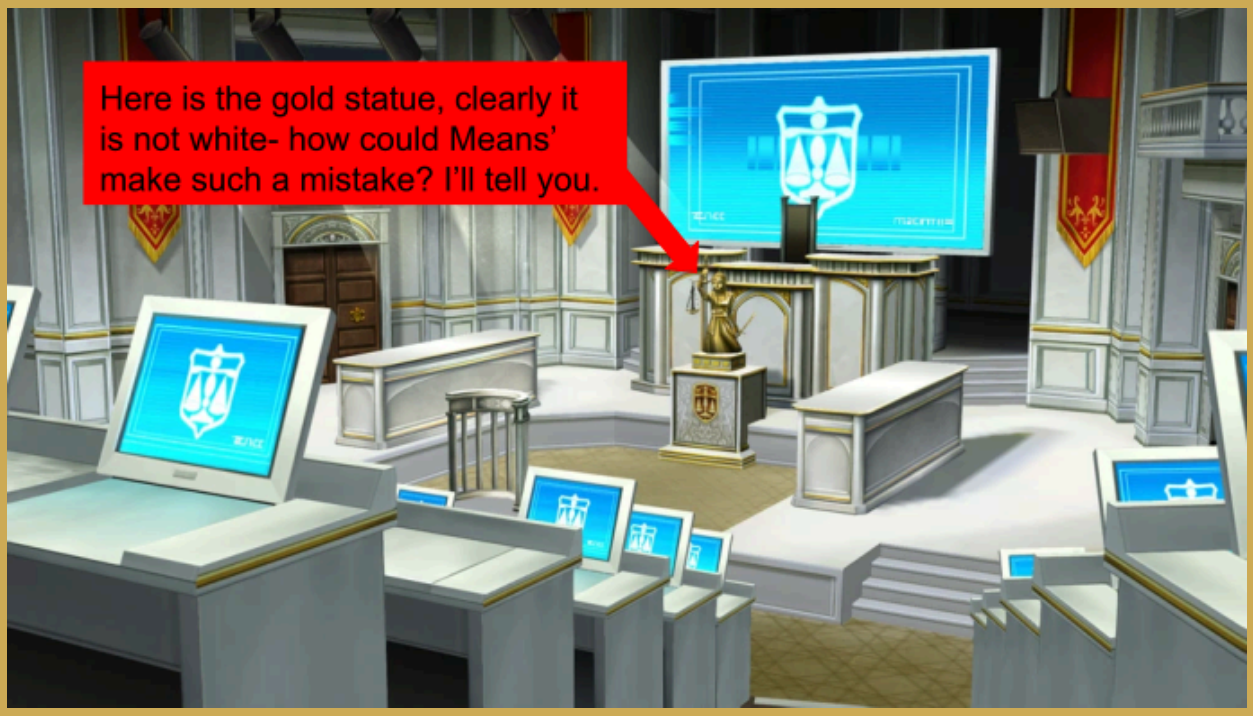
AT THIS POINT IN THE TRIAL, ATHENA HAS YET TO DISCOVER THE TRUE LOCATION OF THE MURDER, AND STILL BELIEVES (THANKS TO MEANS' FORGED EVIDENCE) THAT IT OCCURRED IN THE ART ROOM AND THE BODY HAD THEN BEEN MOVED FROM THERE TO THE STAGE

When called to testify, Means is immediately under heavy suspicion from Cykes. She asserts that upon hearing Means' speech, the line:

>"Once again, our pure white Lady Justice will be watching over all of you today."

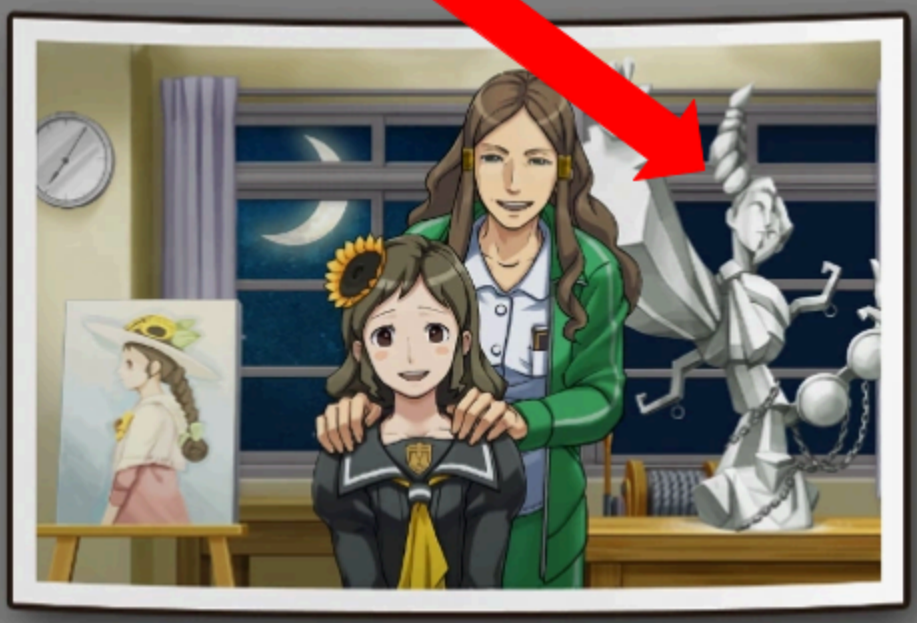
is a glaring contradiction as said "white" statue was in fact gold and proves that he had used a pre recorded speech to go and finalise the details of the murder, to pin the blame on Juniper Woods- the only student who was allowed to move between areas as she was in charge of audio and the mock trial.

EXPLANATION FOR MEANS' "MISTAKE" INCOMING:


Here is the gold statue, clearly it is not white- how could Means' make such a mistake? I'll tell you.


At the time when Aristotle created his pre recorded speech, he believed the statue would look like this:

What he didn't know, and literally couldn't- was that the original statue had broken and been redesigned by Courte to look as so:



So, the statue Means' used to create the loud noise from his plan- was in fact the original lady justice planned for the mock trial hall.



EXPLANATION OVER!

Means skillfully plays her claim off, however, claiming that it was merely an oversight on his behalf, and that since he was in a balcony seat and the statue was originally planned to be white- he had made a simple mistake. The Judge accepts his claim and asserts that it is not sufficient evidence to declare that Means' speech was pre recorded.

UNFORTUNATELY, (recall Means' oversight regarding the white noise on the tape?) Cykes points out the timestamps on where Means' speech begins and when it finishes as being the exact amount of time of white noise on the tape recorder. Means attempts to brush this off as well, explaining that due to his own philosophy- even if Juniper was guilty, he'd defend her rigorously- the fact that he offered to be her lawyer shows that he didn't want her to be convicted.

Being cornered further, Means then goes on to say that he had been keeping quiet on purpose, to avoid implicating Woods further. He claims that since he's being blamed, he has no choice, but to reveal "the truth".

Aristotle's testimony:

>Means: I will now reveal the truth behind why I had to pre-record my speech before the mock trial. I, Prof. Means, always say what I mean and mean what I say by all means!

>Means: The defendant came to me with what she said was very important, and by necessity, secret. She asked me to pre-record my speech and come to the audio room during the mock trial. Juniper confessed to the murder and asked that I get her declared innocent in court. She also said I'd become an

accomplice after losing my alibi due to the pre-recording. But when I said I would protect Juniper, I meant it because it's the humane thing to do.

He further solidifies his claims, by going on to say that Juniper had asked him to defend her, but to also ensure her two friends- Robin Newman and Hugh O'Conner- were also kept safe.

HOWEVER, Athena uses his forged tape recording that he tried to use to implicate Woods as proof that he was not in any way shape or form, trying to protect her. Rather that he has only been lying and saying whatever will benefit/protect him the most.

Here, Means drops his friendly/polite façade. Adopting his more ruthless, strict teacher persona.



Following further assertions from Athena that he is the only possible culprit, Means claims as follows:

>Means: ...Athena, you disappoint me so. To think you would label me a murderer! Now, pay attention! The murder occurred on the 23rd between 6:00 and 8:00 PM! But I was already at home by that time! So, how could I have been involved in this crime?!

At this point, Athena has literally *NO* means to object and disprove his claim- this would result in Means no longer being a suspect and thus, successfully getting away with his crime.

Unfortunately for Means, Robin Newman then steps forward with new testimony, revealing that she had not completed both statues for the stage (where the body was discovered).



Explaining that she had only been successful in completing one and requested that Means finish the other.

*>Robin: The professor told me, "I'll take care of it." I thought my parents would let me be an artist if I said I'd made both statues myself. *sob* I'm sooo sooo sorry for not telling the truth!*

Displaying that Means' had taken advantage and understood the depth of Robin's desire to be an artist. Thus proving he would still be in school at the time of the murder.

This leads to Means having to testify further to defend himself, it goes as follows:

>Means: Now, pay attention! Robin took over half a day to complete one statue. I, however, finished most of the other statue between 7:00 and 8:30 PM. The defendant Juniper saw the two statues with her own eyes at 8:30 PM. Completing a statue so quickly meant I could not leave the stage for a single second! How could I have possibly had the time to go to the art room and commit murder?!

Means clever testimony here is not possible for Athena to break at any point. She is forced to concede that Means never left the stage. However, she then goes on to assert that Means had killed Constance Courte on the stage.

Means quickly claims that if the murder took place on the stage- then there should be far more blood. However, Athena explains that Means used the banners to clean them up.

HOWEVER: NOW WE NEED TO MAKE A SIDENOTE. Athena presents this:



Note the lack of blood? Her claim is dismissed quickly by Blackquill who asserts since the cause of death was blood loss, this is clearly not a substantial amount- to which Athena then presents:



Recall this? Myriam Scuttlebug, another student on the judge course, had discovered these prior and given them to Athena. Unfortunately, this single factor outside of Means' control is what ultimately leads to his failure. As this evidence both proves how he could have forged the blood stain in the art room, and how he disposed of the blood on the stage caused by Courte's death.

Almost at the ends of his ropes, Means chimes in with another rebuttal- where could he have hidden the body on the stage? After all, countless students would have passed that stage in the morning, completely destroying Athena's theory and causing her great distress.

Means goes on to hurl insults at Athena:

>Means: Gah ha ha ha ha! Consider yourself schooled! I couldn't have possibly killed anyone! The killer is none other than Juniper Woods! It always has been and it always will be!

>Athena: Arrrgh... J-J-Just wait a minute...!

>Means [on blackboard]: "The end justifies the means" is an amazing bit of legal wisdom!

>Means: Poor Juniper. She must seriously regret having asked you to defend her.

>Athena: Ugh!

>Means: And to add insult to injury, you nearly had Hugh convicted for murder. Surely, you haven't forgotten that little fiasco?!

>Athena: Aaaaaagh!

>Means [on blackboard]: Athena Cykes's attorney's badge is just for show!

>Means: Not only did you fail to defend your client, you also raised false charges against her friend. You have no right to call yourself a lawyer!

>Athena: AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!! AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!

As a result of his cruel chides, Athena effectively breaks down. She struggles to breathe and is clearly in the midst of a nervous breakdown. It's only after Apollo, Robin, Hugh, Juniper & Simon calm her down that she regains her composure.

It's here that she has the eventual epiphany that the statue on stage could have housed Courte's corpse and hidden it right in plain sight. She goes on to explain how Means' trick from earlier would have hidden the body to the court, reenacting it to show how it is possible. It takes her a while to figure it out, since the only piece of evidence that resembles an arm is an arrow and that is far too short, however she notices Means' staff and figures out that he must have used it instead, upon reenacting the position herself with the staff as an arm this time- it works and looks as the statue would've if it was covered with a cloth.

Means takes it further, asserting that it's merely coincidence that it resembled the statue. However, Athena requests for his staff to be tested for blood. Means attempts to request a brief recess (so he may dispose of the staff), but of course is denied.

Means breaks down having been solidly found guilty and with *no means* to escape.

(Improvisation, PSI, WMI, CPI, GAI, NVI, Emotional Management, Composure, Mental Fortitude, Stress Tolerance, Emotional Understanding, Emotional Facilitation, Emotional Realization, Emotional Awareness, Aura, Cunning, Guilt Tripping, Fabrication, Sophistry, Smearing, Shunning, Psychological Warfare, Strategy, Short Term Strategy, Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Execution, Fast + Critical + Linear Thinking, Logical Manipulation, Logical Reasoning, Deductive + Inductive + Abductive Reasoning, Trap Evasion, Trap Setting, Event Manipulation)

Professor Means' category feats explained:

Key: FSIQ, FSEQ, FSSQ, FSAQ, Intelligence, Manip/Decep, Thinking/Reasoning, Strat/Planning, Misc.

1- Fabrication, Misdirection, Scapegoating, Smearing, Concealment (Means' plan to pin his crime on Juniper Woods

utilises forgery, misleading the investigation, scapegoating and destroying the reputation of his attempted victim)
2- VSI, PSI, Planning Formulation + Intricacies + Coverage + Invincibility, Creative + Fast + Focused Thinking, Anticipation, Setting Traps, Counter Difficulty (Means' plan is incredibly intricate and detailed, covering a wide aspects of possible areas, destroying evidence, forging evidence and more to remove himself as far away from suspicion as possible, he further anticipates the investigation and plans ahead of it, setting traps to disrupt the investigation, this plan is heavily reliant on Means' creative and fast/focused thinking, displaying how efficiently he can come up with his detailed plan)
3- VCI, TRI, FRI, PSI, WMI, PRI, RCI, GAI, Knowledge, Academics, Experience, Crystalised + Fluid Intelligence, Concrete + Critical Thinking, Cognitive Discipline, Composure, Mental Fortitude (Narrative driven, through his being a valedictorian when he was an alumnus at Themis Legal Academy himself- can also be backed up by him being the head teacher for the defense course at the Academy when he returns as a teacher, validity of this is up to interpretation)
4- Social Skills, Leadership, Influence/Influence Building, Social Engineering, Charisma, Relationship Management, Persuasion, Acting Skills, Mass + Direct Manipulation, Social Intelligence (Narrative driven again, according to the game, the

Legal Academy was split 50/50 with half the alumni following Courte's philosophy and the other half following Means' philosophy, this clearly requires a great deal of leadership, etc, plus Means' is one of the causes of the "Dark Age of Law" - since he teaches the philosophy that causes it)

5- Mass Deception, Verbal Deception, Improvisation, Sophistry, Emotional Management, Strategy, Short Term Strategy, Strategy Adaptability + Execution, Composure, Stress Tolerance, Mental Fortitude, Fast + Critical + Linear Thinking, Logical Manipulation / Reasoning, Deductive + Inductive + Abductive Reasoning, Trap Evasion (Means' quick formulation of solid testimonies using sound logic - though, false- under immense pressure from the court and his ability to adapt to them being overcome and continue to challenge and attempt to assert his innocence- whilst may result in eventual failure- are very impressive and serve as testimony to Athena's skill)*

6- Emotional Perception + Understanding + Facilitation + Realization, Shunning, Smearing, Psychological Warfare, Event Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Guilt Tripping, Cunning (Means is quick to use Athena's failings in court to completely shatter the girl mentally, noticing her feelings and then going on to berate her for ultimately failing to do what she set out to- causing her to have a literal nervous breakdown in court, furthermore we can use his feat of manipulating Robin- taking advantage of her dream to become an artist)

I shall quickly explain my take- Means' testimony was not preplanned since he has no means of knowing what he'll be asked, plus giving testimony would require active decision making and thus it is under strategy rather than planning. This applies to most testimonies in the Ace Attorney franchise by the culprits.

"How wonderful! So vigorous and vivacious. You just earned yourself a gold star."





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Credit to the Ace Attorney wiki for transcripts, quotes, images and help summarising.