Winston Payne

“Rookie Killer”



“I can't believe a veteran like me has to spend his time baby-sitting a new defense lawyer.”

Lore:

Winston Payne is a recurring minor antagonist in the Ace Attorney franchise, initially introduced as a bumbling fool who struggles to get his point across, it's later revealed that Winston Payne was once a more formidable prosecutor. Rather impressively, Payne in fact has the second longest win streak in the series (behind von Karma's 40 years) with him claiming to have never lost in his first 7 years of prosecuting.

Little suggests Payne forged evidence in this 7 year span, essentially meaning he won his trials through sheer skill and good arguments (whereas Karma was known for forgeries and having a "must-win" mindset).

[Experience, Social Skills, VCI/VSI/PSI/WMI/FRI/PRI/TRI, persuasion, critical thinking, CRI, FRI]

<u>Turnabout Memories:</u>

A flashback case, showing Mia's second ever trial (Ironically enough, here she's defending Phoenix Wright who would later go on to be another extremely skilled attorney and feed Payne another defeat on multiple occasions). In this trial, Payne is shown to be extremely competent, frequently shutting down Mia and countering rather well. He presents his arguments in good fashion (i.e. the possible motive for the murder, his proof -

such as the dead victim clutching Wright's medicine and how he believed Wright had pushed the victim into the electrical wire - noted by palm print located on the victim's chest) at this point in the trial, the Judge was practically ready to hand down a guilty verdict. Fey points out a contradiction regarding the state of the victim's umbrella, saying it's not possible that the push killed him since the umbrella wasn't underneath the corpse - indicating that the victim survived and moved after the assault.

A break is called and court resumes shortly after, here Dahlia Hawthorne is called to the stand (the true murderer) in which she claimed the victim had simply collapsed and not been pushed, Fey refutes her claims and suggests that the victim was electrocuted by a bolt of lightning - here Payne immediately counters massively, proving that there were no lightning strikes at the location on that day. Furthermore, Payne presented an affidavit from the pharmacology students, which noted that they had lost power to their equipment at 2:55 p.m. that afternoon, a fact that could only be attributed to a severing of one of the high voltage electrical cables. The students had also said that the cables were very old and brittle and that even the smallest of bumps could cause one to break. The back and forth between Hawthorne and Fey continued, with Hawthorne changing her tune and she now testified that Wright had

pushed Swallow twice, once from the front, breaking the cable, and once from behind, pushing him into the cable and thereby electrocuting him. These events, she claimed, occurred in less than a minute. Fey objected to this; the photo of Swallow's arm showed that Swallow's watch had stopped at 3:05 p.m., ten minutes after the cable had snapped, which Payne reminded the court had occurred at 2:55. Fey suggested that the real killer had carried out the murder during this time interval, and that Hawthorne was the only one who could have done it, as she had not intervened or called for help.

(Wright shenanigans then occurs and he attempts to flee the courtroom claiming Dahlia could have never done something like that)

Nearing the end of the case, Hawthorne's argument and murder were picked apart ruthlessly by Fey before she finally gave up. It should be noted that Payne, in disbelief at having lost the case, argued that there was not a scrap of evidence to support Fey's claims. Fey then issued the same Coldkiller X challenge to him, recalling that, earlier in the trial, he had said that he would trust Hawthorne with his very life. Payne knew that his own words had betrayed him; he broke down, and his head of hair went flying off, never to regrow.



KEY NOTES TO THIS CASE: Payne was unaware of Hawthorne's true position in the case and argued exceptionally considering the circumstances (this is extremely relevant as compared to Karma in the turnabout goodbyes case who was aware of Yogi's participation in the crime).

"Hee, hee, hee, hee, hee. It seems that you've forgotten one small thing, young lady." - Winston Payne, mocking Mia's ignorance.

[VCI/VSI/PSI/WMI/FRI/PRI/TRI, counter difficulty, anticipation - regarding counter arguments from Fey, shunning, planning/strategy - had clear arguments prepped for the trial albeit these are eventually overcome, experience, hot reading - figured out Mia's ignorance of aspects in court, cunning, EQE -

recognises emotions throughout the trial and uses them to his advantage, information control]

The First Turnabout

KEY NOTES TO THIS CASE: Payne is older and far less confident following his defeat at Fey's hands, unfortunately Payne doesn't have many incredible feats and loses a lot of confidence weakening his overall arguments from here on, and so when using Payne in debates it's best to specify which version of Payne you're using.



One of the shortest trials in the franchise, here's Wright's first ever case. The trial is incredibly simplistic and basic, the gist is

as follows: Larry Butz (Phoenix's best friend) is on trial for the murder of his (ex)girlfriend. Payne starts off the trial strongly, the judge asks Payne to submit the murder weapon into evidence: a small statue of The Thinker. Butz then took the stand. Payne told him Stone had dumped him, which Butz angrily denied, believing that he and the victim had been destined to be together, though he did admit that she had not been answering his phone calls or wanting to see him. Payne, looking to agitate Butz into incriminating himself with a motive, revealed that Stone had returned overseas with one of "them". He presented Stone's passport to the court, explaining that she had been in Paris until the day of the murder. He further disclosed that she had maintained relationships with several "sugar daddies" who gave her money and gifts to support her lifestyle. Payne's plan worked, with Butz calling Stone "a cheatin' she-dog" and saying that he would get to the bottom of it when he met her in the afterlife.

Unfortunately following this it's all downhill for Payne, Sahwit is called to the stand and he eventually cracks under Wright's frequent pressing and pointing out contradictions with it being revealed that Sahwit was in fact the murderer in question.

“W-w-what's the meaning of this? This is all baseless conjecture!” - Winston Payne struggling to find a proper argument against Wright.

AGAIN; KEY NOTE: Payne was unaware of Sahwit’s position in the case. He argues as well as he can here.

[smearing, coercion, abusing insecurities, emotional manipulation, setting traps, experience, some counter difficulty, information control]

The Stolen Turnabout

Not much to this trial, it’s clear however that Payne would’ve had an easy time prosecuting Atmey as the masked robber, this trial is ended prematurely and not much occurs since Wright accuses Atmey of being the murderer in his own case, stealing Payne’s spotlight.

[experience]

Recipe for Turnabout

It is revealed that Payne decimated “Wright” in this trial, with the latter having his worst performance to date. Sadly for Payne it's later revealed that Wright never prosecuted this trial and was instead facing off against an imposter trying to play himself off as Wright. When the real Wright appeals the trial Payne is replaced by Godot.

[experience]

Turnabout Trump

This is the final case in which Payne plays a role in. Payne is Apollo Justice's first opponent, prosecuting his old rival Phoenix Wright himself. Payne throughout the early sections of the trial is proven to be rather difficult for the young attorney to handle, Payne explains the issues with the murder weapon and how the way the fingerprints were positioned suggested that the bottle had been used as a weapon. Payne explains the motive as losing at cards (something that Wright hadn't done for 7 years due to his cheat). Justice eventually proves that Wright was in fact not losing, thus removing the motive for the murder. Payne's influence diminishes exponentially through the trial, albeit he attempts to argue back at points.

Unfortunately for Payne, as the trial goes on it becomes more of a showdown between Gavin and Wright, with Payne eventually crying out:

“This... This is insane! What about me!? Don't I get to prosecute anyone!?”



[Experience, counter difficulty, fsiq, information control]

(Prime) Winston Payne’s strongest categories:
Key: FSIQ, FSEQ, FSSQ, RSC/THK, Manip/Decep, G Factor, Strat/Planning, Misc.
1- Experience [second longest win streak in the franchise, has prosecuted for many years]
2- Counter Difficulty [argues against Fey rather well, points out flaws in her arguments]
3- VCI/VSI/PSI/WMI/FRI/PRI/TRI [again, as a skilled prosecutor he’s naturally talented in these areas, shown to be well-spoken and good at getting his point across (key note here is that

Payne loses a lot of confidence following his first defeat and thus loses a lot of his arguing skills)]

4- Persuasion [having not lost a single case for the first seven years of his career and earning the reputation "Rookie Killer" it's undeniable that he's very persuasive]

5- Critical thinking/FRI/CRI [again, as a skilled prosecutor he's shown to be quite competent and capable of coming up with solid arguments and ideas in response to evidence given to him]

6- Planning/strategy/anticipation [had strong arguments prepped for the case, was able to retaliate multiple inconsistencies that Fey pointed out and counter with other arguments]

7- Social Skills [skilled prosecutor, shown to be able to change arguments in response to changes in the case, shown to be well-spoken and has good interactions with the Judge especially]

8- Logical reasoning [able to formulate clear ideas with evidence given to him, coming up with solid arguments - note, unlike his older self here, he's able to retaliate when his arguments are countered rather well, obviously once Fey practically proves Hawthorne's guilt and there's nothing he can do he fails]

9- Information control [As a lawyer he brings new evidence to the courtroom and calls on witnesses]

10- EQE [recognises emotions throughout the trial and uses them to his advantage, such as Mia's early nervousness and Phoenix's attachment to Dahlia]

(Older) Winston Payne's strongest categories:

1- Smearing/coercion/abusing insecurities/emotional manipulation/setting traps [Funnily enough, Payne's trial when he's older involves targeting the defendant himself far more, crafting a situation that has Butz admit what his own motivation for the victim's murder could've been]

2- Experience [More experienced naturally, unfortunately however he's lost a lot of his former confidence]

3- Logical reasoning [able to formulate clear ideas with evidence given to him, coming up with solid arguments - again note, once broken at this stage, Payne struggles heavily to pick himself back up]

4- Information control [As a lawyer he brings new evidence to the courtroom and calls on witnesses]

5- Counter Difficulty [albeit not as good as his prime self, he's still capable of forming objections and arguing against his opponents]

6- Knowledge [as a top prosecutor originally it's obvious that he's quite knowledgeable, however I explicitly wanted to include this so we can include that Payne knows a decent deal

about poker shown by his mocking of Apollo Justice's ignorance and explaining it simply]

“To think, I saw you enter this room a fresh attorney, and now I'll see you leave in chains.” - Winston Payne, when prosecuting Phoenix Wright in Apollo Justice.



"Take it from me kid. It happens. I didn't lose a case my first seven years as prosecutor, either." - Winston Payne



Made by TheNoo (u/Due_Ad8334)
Credits to the Ace Attorney Wiki again for providing transcripts, quotes, images to use when creating this doc.

Fun Fact: Payne whilst generally being depicted as pathetic (aside from his T&T flashback self) has a wife and daughter! Okay, that was a low blow on my behalf. The actual fun fact is that Payne has a younger brother known as Gaspen who prosecutes in DD/SoJ, once I finish those up I'd like to make a document on him as well :) also note, that Payne is easily the most morally correct of the prosecutors (is never accused of forgery, never commits a murder himself, is never aware when one of his witnesses is in fact the murderer themselves and doesn't physically assault Phoenix in the courtroom - looking at you Franziska and Godot).

PS: Why make a doc on ***WINSTON PAYNE*** of all people you ask? Because he's one of the most underrated characters in my opinion. It's fun to mock him, but I thought it'd be cool to make a doc on him since he's a fun character. Furthermore, with the fact that Payne doesn't appear all that much in the games I haven't finished yet, he's a prime candidate to analyse for me.