—Clue 1—

I consider that a man’s brain originally is like a little empty attic, and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose. A fool takes in all the lumber of every sort that he comes across, so that the knowledge which might be useful to him gets crowded out, or at best is jumbled up with a lot of other things, so that he has a difficulty in laying his hands upon it. Now the skillful workman is very careful indeed as to what he takes into his brain-attic.

—A Study in Scarlet (1887)

What it means: The finite mind tends to overfill with worthless details.

How to use it: This suggestion is critical when presenting your case to judge or jury: Keep matters as clear and simple as possible so that the point of your argument is not lost in the deep, dark morass.