

**TABLE 6.4** Attitudes Shape Evidence Validity

|                                         | Proponent of Capital Punishment                                                                                                                 | Opponent of Capital Punishment                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Comments about a pro-deterrence study   | It does support capital punishment in that it presents facts showing that there is a deterrent effect and seems to have gathered data properly. | The study was taken only 1 year before and 1 year after capital punishment was reinstated. To be a more effective study they should have taken data from at least 10 years before and as many years as possible after. |
| Comments about an anti-deterrence study | The evidence given is relatively meaningless without data about how the overall crime rate went up in those years.                              | There aren't as many uncontrolled variables in this experiment as in the other one, so I'm still willing to believe the conclusion made.                                                                               |

Source: Lord, Ross, and Lepper (1979).