**Innocence Project Case Study (Informational Writing)**

You will be learning more about wrongful convictions — and building awareness among your classmates at the same time — by focusing on a specific case of someone who has been wrongfully convicted.

**Look at a Specific Case of Wrongful Conviction:**

* The case that you will be researching, writing, and presenting about is the case of:

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* You will begin my research about this case by accessing a multimedia slideshow on him by accessing this web link:
* <http://www.innocenceproject.org/fix/947/Their-Stories.php>

Please note: All of the cases we are studying revolve around those who were wrongfully accused between the ages of **14 and 22** and were **exonerated** years later through **DNA testing**.

* Several people who have been exonerated are featured on the Innocence Project’s YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/user/innocenceproject>. You can getter a better sense of their personalities and their stories by watching the videos. You may consider using a video clip from this YouTube page as part of your presentation.
* After reading the case profile and watching any videos about the exoneree, search for more information about the case on the internet. Most exonerations were covered by the press, and sometimes newspapers, magazines and television stations have great photos and videos on their websites. I will require a works cited page as part of your paper, where **at least three sources outside of the innocence project are listed.**

**Apply What You’ve Learned About Wrongful Conviction:**

* The Innocence Project examines each exoneration case to determine **what caused the wrongful conviction in the first place**. In many cases, multiple factors contributed to the injustice. Find out what led to the wrongful conviction you are considering for your paper and presentation (false confession, eyewitness misidentification, etc) and learn more about that cause. Access to the articles and video clips that we used to learn about all of the different ways can be found here: <http://www.innocenceproject.org/understand/>.
* Next, find out whether California has passed reforms to address the cause of wrongful convictions that you are researching. If your state has already passed a reform, find out whether it's as strong as it could be. If your state has not, make an inference or prediction as to why that is the case. Also, examine state compensation law and find out whether your case benefited from it. To learn more about state reforms, visit: <http://www.innocenceproject.org/news/LawView.php>.

**Requirements for Paper**

* **MLA formatted:**
* header includes: name, teacher name, class, date
* Times New Roman, 12 pt. font
* Double-Spaced, indenting each paragraph
* Work Cited, citing all (including the innocence project’s) websites used

\*See bibme.com for help with formatting

Your paper should include the following sections:

* **Summary of the wrongful conviction:**
* Name and background of the exonerated
* Detailed description of the accused crime
* Age at arrest, date of conviction, sentence served
* **Cause of the wrongful conviction:**
* Name of process that led to wrongful conviction
* Detailed description of why error in this process occurred
* Detailed description of current CA laws/reforms around the process
* Detailed description of current CA laws/reforms around compensation for exoneration
* **The Current Status of the Exonerated:**
* Where are they now?
* Did they receive compensation?
* **Conclusion:**
* What is the significance of this topic?
* What implications are there for the future?

**Requirements for Class Presentation**

Your presentation should contain **ALL** of the information from your paper, but presented in a more **engaging way**.

Acceptable means of presenting information include:

* PowerPoint
* Prezi
* Poster
* Handout for Doc Cam
* Other forms of presentation may be acceptable upon approval

**Please Note: ALL presentations will be graded on engagement; therefore, they must incorporate visuals (photos, graphs, video clips, etc.). Text that you include must be concise, organized, and purposeful.**

**Peer Evaluation Form**

Your tablemates are going to be exploring the same case as you. The expectation is that you support each other during research, analysis, writing, and preparing. **However, you will still be required to produce your own paper and your own presentation. No two papers or presentations can be alike.** The objective is to help classmates without doing the work for them. In an effort to reward you for your efforts, your contributions to the success of others during this project will be worth a total of **10 assessment points.** To determine your score, I will average the evaluation scores that your tablemates leave below.

**You:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I believe that I should earn this many points for assisting me when needed (circle one):**

(Never helped when asked) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Was always available/helpful)

\*If direct assistance from you was not needed, consider how respectful you were of their workspace when evaluating.

**Reason:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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