O.J. Simpson Case Study
Crime Scene Errors and Evidence Mistakes

<u>Introduction:</u> *The O.J. Simpson case is known as the "crime of the century". Millions of people around the world watched the details unfold on live television. The case, trial, and verdict were all extremely controversial for many reasons. You will research the murders Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman today and use the information we discussed in class to analyze the evidence and crime scene investigation procedures and determine how these errors affected the trial outcome.*

<u>Directions:</u> You are to work INDIVIDUALLY to complete the three different parts of the assignment. The completed case study is due on Monday [11/18] class time. You may submit your slides and outline to me on Google, or through 360, or direct email rolltidekym@gmail.com. Make sure to put your <u>name</u> on the document and indicate the <u>part and question number</u> for your answers. Below is a list of suggested links that you may use to help you complete you research, you are not limited to them and can use any resource that you may find. Please use your parents as a resource for the opinion paper if you would like..

Suggested Websites:

- http://www.nytimes.com/1994/07/21/us/simpson-case-has-errors-coroner-says.html
- http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/oj/themes/prosecution.html
- http://www.crimemuseum.org/oj_acquittal_trial_suit
- http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/index/nns25.htm
- http://www.cnn.com/US/OJ/
- https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BxyyupTf6ce7dk9raVJDMGdnQ1k/edit
- http://www.famous-trials.com/simpson/1862-home
- https://kenanfellows.org/kfp-cp-sites/ddd/sites/default/files/Criminal-Cases_0.pdf

Part 1: *Answer the following questions in order to familiarize yourself with the case and trial.*

1. Who is O.J. Simpson? What was the accusation against him?
2. Who was Nicole Brown Simpson? Who was Ronal Goldman? What were their relations to O.J. Simpson?
3. Why was O.J. Simpson famous before the murder case?
4. When (date and time frame) and where did the murders occur?
5. Describe the scene of the crime.
6. List at least TWO pieces of evidence from the crime that fits into each of the following categories.
   a. Direct
   b. Physical
   c. Biological
   d. Individual
   e. Class
7. List the location(s) where the victims' blood was found.
8. Who was Mark Fuhrman and what role did he play?
9. Who were (at least) 5 members of the "Dream Team" and their role in O.J.'s defense?
10. How did the defense dismantle the prosecution's case against O.J.?
11. What were the prosecution's arguments?
12. What was the verdict of the criminal case?
13. In 1997, who filed a civil suit against Simpson? What was the outcome of the trial?
14. Why was the Goldman family awarded the rights to "If I Did It"?
15. What was Simpson convicted of in 2007? What was his sentence?
16. What happened on July 20, 2017?

Part 2: *Find TEN different errors or ethical concerns in this case that were the legal responsibilities of the crime scene investigators and/ or detectives. This may include categories such as: chain of custody errors, crime scene errors, general ethics errors, and Bill of Rights Amendment violations. Use the outline below tas a guide on how to complete this portion.Please write at least two sentences analyzing the forensic science errors and commenting on why it is considered to be an error. Be prepared to discuss your findings in class.*

Part 3: *Case Reflection – Answer the following prompt using the information you learned during your research and what you know about crime scene investigation. I <u>want your personal opinion</u> on the case. [minimum 2 paragraphs – 5 to 7 sentences per paragraph.]*

❖ Do you feel that O.J. Simpson is guilty? Why or why not?

Name:

Mods:

O.J. Simpson Case Study

Example Answer Document

<u>Part 1</u>

1. Answer
2. Answer
3. Answer

         Continue to #16

<u>Part 2</u>

1. Error #1
   a. Explanation
2. Error #2
   a. Explanation
3. Error #3
   a. Explanation

         Continue to TEN

<u>Part 3</u>

    Reflection paragraphs