

## Case Study Questions: O.J. Simpson

(Use reading, websites, & parents to find the following information)

### What:

1. What do you already know about the OJ Simpson case and what is your initial opinion?  
I know that he was a football player, and i think he killed his ex-wife because that's what my Dad thinks.
2. What was the accusation against OJ Simpson?  
That he murdered his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

### Who:

2. Who was Nicole Brown Simpson? Who was Ronald Goldman?  
Nicole was OJ's ex-wife, Ronald Goldman was Nicole's friend.
3. How was OJ Simpson famous before the murder case?  
He was a star running back for the USC Trojans.
4. Who made up what was known as the "Dream Team?" Identify names and their roles.  
Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld, two lawyers specializing in DNA; Dr. Michael Baden, regarded as the top pathologist and medical examiner; criminalist Dr. Henry C. Lee and Herb McDonald, the world's leading blood pattern experts; Chuck Morton, a famous trace evidence expert; crime scene expert Larry Ragle, and several others.
5. Who was Mark Fuhrman and what role did he play?  
He was a detective

### When/ Where:

6. Time of Day and Year:

Night time, June 12, 1994.

7. Physical and Geographical Location:

it was at the entrance to the Simpson 's home at 875 South Bundy Drive Los Angeles

### Evidence:

8. What was significance of the white Ford Bronco police chase?  
It was significant because 100 million people were watching live.
9. How did the defense dismantle the prosecution's case against OJ?  
They steadily undermined all the forensic evidence.
10. What was the role of the bloody glove?  
It was very incriminating
11. Was there any DNA evidence against OJ? Explain.  
Yes, but it couldn't really be used due to sloppy handling of evidence.

**Outcome:**

12. Legal outcome of case?

A jury acquitted Simpson of the murder charges

**Reflections:**

13. Generally, what was the reaction to the verdict in the African American community? White community?

**OJ Simpson Case: Focus on Evidence**

14. OJ Simpson’s “Dream Team” of lawyers and forensic experts were able to raise serious doubts about the CSI work and analysis of evidence by the LAPD. Below is a list of some of the issues raised by OJ’s defense team. Explain the errors that were made with more specific details.

<b>Issue raised by OJ’s defense</b>	<b>Explain errors that were made with more specific details</b>
a) Issues with LAPD’s photographs of crime scene	both still pictures and videography reveal mistakes in police handling of evidence
b) Issues with unrecorded evidence	some of the alleged evidence had never been photographed or did not appear at the original crime scene
c) Issues with photos of OJ in Bruno Magli shoes	The case had already been marked by a highly publicized doctored image in the form of an altered image of O.J. Simpson that had been published on the news magazine cover
d) Issues with possible contamination of	police took more than two weeks to remove blood from a fence, and scientists pointed out that the long outdoors relay had fatally damaged the evidence.

LAPD Criminalist Andrea Mazzola swabbing up blood drops while leaning a gloved hand on dirty ground, touching tweezers with the same hand, then using the same tweezers to manipulate a bloody swatch. She also placed wet swatches in plastic bags where Gerdes said bacteria could grow and “cleaned” the tweezers by merely wiping them with clear water – a procedure that was not likely to remove the DNA.

evidence	LAPD criminalists were shown to have collected hair, fiber, and other trace evidence in a sloppy way by putting all such evidence into the same container, thereby rendering it contaminated.
e) Issues with how the bodies were handled	<p>Some workers had actually dumped some of the towels, used gloves, and other debris on top of a victim 's body</p> <p>one of the worst mistakes was that the victim 's bodies were left lying in the open air for hours, without being examined by a medical examiner. He was not even notified until ten hours after the bodies were found.</p>

**15.** In your opinion, are the issues raised regarding the LAPD's handling of evidence enough to warrant a "not guilty" verdict by the jury? Explain.

Nah because OJ was obviously guilty, he got angry that his ex-wife had another man and decided to kill them. It's pretty common for football players to be abusive or have anger-management problems, due to the amount of blunt head injuries. This time he just went too far, botta bing botta boom no more ex-wife.

**16.** After studying this case, has your opinion changed? Explain.

No. He's killed his ex-wife and his ex-wife's side hoe.