

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?
He did it.
2. What was the accusation against OJ Simpson?
That he murdered his ex wife and another man.

Who:

2. Who was Nicole Brown Simpson? Who was Ronald Goldman?
Nicole was OJ's ex wife and Ronald Goldman was her friend and possible boyfriend.
3. How was OJ Simpson famous before the murder case?
He was a football player and actor.
4. Who made up what was known as the "Dream Team?" Identify names and their roles.
Robert Shapiro, Johnnie Cochran, F Lee Bailey, Alan Dershowitz, and several others were the lead counsel. Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld were the forensics "experts"
5. Who was Mark Fuhrman and what role did he play?
He was the detective that found OJ's glove with their blood on it.

When/ Where:

6. Time of Day and Year: Night of June 12th, 1994
7. Physical and Geographical Location: Los Angeles

Evidence:

8. What was significance of the white Ford Bronco police chase?
It shows that he was in town and running away.
9. How did the defense dismantle the prosecution's case against OJ?
Saying the police were racist and pointing out there sloppy handling of the evidence.
10. What was the role of the bloody glove?
It had blood matching everyone involved and it proved that OJ did it
11. Was there any DNA evidence against OJ? Explain.
Yes, his DNA was on the glove.

Outcome:

12. Legal outcome of case? OJ was innocent.

Reflections:

13. Generally, what was the reaction to the verdict in the African American community? White community?
The African American community was overjoyed and the white community was not.

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.

Issue raised by OJ’s defense	Explain errors that were made with more specific details
a) Issues with LAPD’s photographs of crime scene	It reveal mistakes in police handling of evidence, as well as to show that some of the alleged evidence had never been photographed or did not appear at the original crime scene, thus raising questions about whether it had been planted.
b) Issues with unrecorded evidence	Crime scene investigators had failed to collect pieces of crucial evidence. For example, police photos of Nicole Simpson’s corpse revealed blood spatters on her upturned back that analysts later concluded must have originated from someone else – perhaps her killer. But police investigators failed to take a genetic sample of the blood before turning the victim over, thereby contaminating any possible samples.
c) Issues with photos of OJ in Bruno Magli shoes	The prosecution presented compelling photographic evidence claiming to show O.J. Simpson wearing the same type of extremely rare, size 12 Bruno Magli shoes, with soles that matched bloody footprints found leading from the bodies. But this evidence was challenged as a fake.
d) Issues with possible contamination of	The collection of evidence at the crime scene was incredibly sloppy. John Gerdes, M.D., A DNA expert and the clinical director of Immunological Associates of Denver (IAD) who testified for the defense, watched the police video of the crime scene with the jury and pointed out many problems with evidence collection, including 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	
e) Issues with how the bodies were handled	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.

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.

I don't think it was handled poorly enough to warrant a not guilty verdict but it should have been handled better.

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

Nah, Norm MacDonald was right. Bro did it for sure.