

Criminal Case: Project Instructions

Selection Due Sunday of Week 4 at 11:59PM CST

Draft Due Sunday of Week 8 at 11:59PM CST

Presentation Due Sunday of Week 15 at 11:59PM CST

Vote Due Sunday of Week 16 at 11:59PM CST

DISCLAIMER WARNING: This is an academic assignment being carried out as a course requirement at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

You are not to do anything which could be considered illegal, malicious, unethical, or harmful. Do not use any surreptitious or unscrupulous means to gather information for your project. This is an open source intelligence (OSINT) and research gathering project. Please do not photograph, record, or make unofficial entry into any location considered to be critical infrastructure, or otherwise sensitive in nature. If you want photos, recordings, or other information involving critical infrastructure, search for the information in the public domain. Do not take any action which could be considered suspicious or illegal, or which could subject you to criminal investigation and prosecution. Use common sense.

Objectives:

A main goal of this course is for students to develop a clear understanding of the entire process of criminal investigations, from discovery of a crime through the verdict in court. One of the best ways to do this is to examine a case that has occurred and analyze the various aspects of it.

Selection: (5 points)

Cases will be selected from the list below on a first-come, first-serve basis. No two students can choose the same case. **Your Selection will be due by Sunday of Week 4.** Create a thread in the "Criminal Case: Selection" **discussion board**; the name of the case you have selected should be in the Subject line. There can be no duplicate selections; if a classmate has already chosen that case, select another. If you want a case that does not appear on the list, you may only do so with prior approval from the instructor. Please plan accordingly.

Draft: (35 points)

To ensure you are headed in the right direction, I want you to submit a draft of your presentation. I do not expect it to be complete or well organized. But I do want it to

demonstrate that you have completed most, if not all, of your research and are well on your way toward completion. Your presentation represents a large portion of your final grade and I want to make sure you are on your way to an "A" grade. Now is the time to identify any problems and get them corrected. A minimum of four (4) sources will need to be cited properly in a References list in APA format or your draft will not be graded. Websites with questionable reliability (e.g., Wikipedia, howthingswork.com, e-how.com, history.com, etc.) are not scholarly in nature and may not be used as resources.

Your Draft will be due by Sunday of Week 8. It must be submitted as a Word document attachment in the "Criminal Case: Draft" **assignment**.

Presentation: (50 points)

You will create a presentation on your chosen criminal case for your classmates to review. It should be fact-based, interesting, and informative. Your presentation should at least include:

1. A thorough description of the events
2. The identity of key persons involved
3. A description of investigative techniques used by authorities (or maybe should have been used?)
4. The outcomes of the investigation and/or court process
5. Proper spelling and grammar
6. The use of graphs and/or videos to reinforce the text portion of the presentation
7. The use of at least four sources of information that are properly cited

Remember, this is an introduction to criminal investigation class. I want you to keep in mind the investigative techniques you are learning in the course and compare them to those used in your chosen case. Discuss where you see a particular technique work or fail. What modern technique, not available in the past, might have helped?

PowerPoint is the required format for the presentation (optionally with video) and it should NOT be saved on any public websites. Use the provided PowerPoint template with the same opening and closing disclaimer slides. Do not change the design of the opening and closing disclaimer slides. Feel free to adjust the design of the slides between the disclaimer slides that contain your presentation content. If you also choose to create and use your own video, you will need to read the provided disclaimer statement from the PowerPoint template at the beginning and end of the video. Any video you make for the presentation will need to be uploaded through

Blackboard to Kaltura, DMACC's private video server (it should not be saved on any public websites).

The PowerPoint should not exceed 15 slides, not including the two disclaimer slides. (Death by PowerPoint is discouraged!) Include interesting graphics, images, and/or videos to support and enhance your presentation. All the topical areas from your outline *must* be included in summary form within your presentation. Your presentation must likewise include at least four (4) scholarly research sources in APA format in a References section at the end of the presentation. Presentations will be graded on content, mechanics (e.g., spelling, typos, grammar, APA format), and graphic design. Please see the grading rubric for details.

The presentation PowerPoint must be submitted in the "Criminal Case: Presentation" **discussion board** as an attachment, optionally including the Kaltura Mashup for your video. Type *your own name* in the subject line of your post. **Your Presentation will be due by Sunday of Week 15.**

Vote: **(5 points)**

Each of you will be required to go into all of your classmates' discussion board threads and view their presentations. You will have one week to accomplish this task. I strongly encourage you to offer feedback on each of them, as I'm sure you will also appreciate feedback.

After you review each of the presentations, you will vote for the person you believe did the best job based on the content and delivery of his or her presentation. **Your Vote will be due by Sunday of Week 16.** It must be submitted as an entry in "Criminal Case: Presentation Vote" **journal**. This vote will be confidential between you and the instructor. The student who receives the most votes will be awarded extra credit. In the event of a tie, each winning student will be awarded extra credit points. Hopefully this is extra motivation to do an outstanding job!!

Grading:

Your project will be graded on content as well as grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A grading rubric is provided for guidance. Use APA citations when directed and include a References list at the end in proper APA format. You are required to use a minimum of four (4) scholarly research sources for the presentation. If required components are missing, your project will not be graded.

Project Part	Points Possible
Selection	5 points
Draft	35 points
Presentation	50 points
Vote	5 points
Total:	95 points

Topics:

Mass Shootings at Schools

1. University of Texas – Joseph Whitman (1966)
2. Columbine High School – Eric Harris & Derek Klebold (1999)
3. Virginia Tech – Seung-Hui Cho (2007)
4. Sandy Hook Elementary School – Adam Lanza (2012)

Mass Shootings at Malls

1. Westroads Shopping Center (Omaha, NE) – Robert Hawkins (2007)
2. Aurora, CO Movie Theater – James E. Holmes (2012)

Serial Killers

1. Jeffrey Dahmer
2. Ted Bundy
3. John Wayne Gacy
4. Albert DeSalvo (Boston Strangler)
5. Aileen Wuornos

High Profile Cases & Criminals

6. JonBenet Ramsey
1. The Black Dahlia
2. D.B. Cooper
3. Jimmy Hoffa
4. John Gotti
5. Martha Stewart
6. Unabomber (Theodore Kaczynski)
7. Casey Anthony
8. Whitey Bulger

High Profile Murder Cases

1. The murder of Laci Peterson (Scott Peterson)
2. Sharon Tate, et al. (Charles Manson)

Famous Heists & Robbers

1. The Gardner Museum Heist — March 18, 1990
2. Bonnie & Clyde
3. Dunbar Armored Robbery (Los Angeles, 1990)