Forensic Science Case Study Project

Directions: For this project, you will create a short presentation, which outlines forensic science applications discussed in class to a real-life criminal investigation. You will fully research a case study of your choosing and present to the class the case details, evidence and forensic techniques that have helped solve or best understand the case. Please refer to the rubrics and guides for grading information. Follow the steps below to finish this assignment:

1. **Choose a case study:** You will be provided with a list of possible case studies at the start of the project (Friday, February 3, 2012) or you may choose your own. It is important to pick a case that not only interests you but one that you are also comfortable with researching and presenting in front of the class.
   - The case may be recent or older, solved or unsolved, and a crime of any nature. All of these details; however, should be indicated in the report sheet, as well as described during the presentation.
   - The case must include aspects of forensic science in attempting to solve the crime. This includes evidence such as fingerprints, hair, testimony and other topics we have discussed in class thus far.
   - Each student must choose a different case to present to the class (only one student per case) so that we can gain many different perspectives from the various real-life cases out there.
   - Monday, February 6, 2012, you should come to class, with this project packet and your two top choices for a case study written in the lines below. You will hand in the packet on Monday and I will look through all of your choices and assign each student to an individual case. I will try to grant you one of your top choices; however, it will ultimately be up to me to decide in case of ties.

   **Choice 1:**

   **Choice 2:**

   **Approved/Assigned Case Study:**

2. **Research your case:** You may use the internet, newspapers, textbooks, and library books to research your case. As a class, we will spend one day in the library. Remember, all work must be your own. Please, do not plagiarize and remember to cite your sources. To help you organize your research, I will provide you with a report frame included in the packet. The frame should be turned in at the completion of the project before the start of the presentations. If you do not turn in your report frame, you will not be permitted to present.

3. **Design your presentation:** You may choose to create a PowerPoint, poster board, overhead transparencies, handouts or other visual aids to guide your presentation. At least one is necessary to receive full credit. Avoid overly graphic pictures.

4. **Giving your presentation:** On the day of the presentation in class, everyone should have their materials ready to begin at the bell. Class sizes are large so therefore presentations must be brief. You will be given 3-4 minutes to summarize your case and display pictures and
information. I will time your reports and stop you when 4 minutes are up if you go over. Refer to the presentation rubric for further details on expectations. I will decide the order of presentations and try to let you know the day before when you will be presenting.

5. **Audience:** As a member of the classroom, you are expected to give your classmates your full attention and respect. With each presentation, you will be filling out a log that will help you summarize and critique each presentation to be turned in at the end of all presentations. This will be counted as a homework grade.
Forensic Science Case Study Project Suggestion List

This is a list of possible ideas for the Forensic Science Case Study Project. Feel free to choose from this list or research others. A quick Google search will reveal many more.

Amanda Davies
Baltimore Rapist
BTK Killer
Casey Anthony trial
Colin Ross
Coral Eugene Watts
Elizabeth Smart
Georgi Markov
Hamm Kidnapping
Jack the Ripper
Jeffrey MacDonald
Jon Bennet Ramsey
Laci Peterson murder
Ludwig Tessnow
Mark Winger
O.J. Simpson Case
Richard Crafts
Ronald Cotton
St. Valentine’s Day Massacre
Ted Bundy
The Black Dahlia
The Coors Kidnapping
The Green River Killer
The Lindbergh Kidnapping
The Marie LaFarge Case
Thelma Todd
The Night Stalker
The Sacco-Vanzetti Case
The Same Sheppard Case
The Stielow Case
Tylenol Murders
Unabomber
Zodiac Killer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CONTENT</strong></th>
<th><strong>4- Exemplar “Above &amp; Beyond”</strong></th>
<th><strong>3- Satisfactory “Well done, needs minor improvements”</strong></th>
<th><strong>2-Developing “Lacking in obvious way/s”</strong></th>
<th><strong>1-Limited “Minimal Effort”</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Report Sheet</strong></td>
<td>-All content is accurate. There are no factual errors.</td>
<td>-All content is accurate; however, may not be relevant</td>
<td>-Content is mostly accurate, with few minor discrepancies</td>
<td>-Content is mostly inaccurate or irrelevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Depth of research</td>
<td>-All content requested on sheet is present</td>
<td>-Missing 2 items or less on report sheet</td>
<td>-Missing 2 or more items on report sheet</td>
<td>-Missing 5 or more items on report sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Accuracy of Content</td>
<td>-All content is related to forensic science</td>
<td>-Forensic science content apparent</td>
<td>-Forensic science content not obviously apparent</td>
<td>-Content not relatable to forensic science</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Forensic science relation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Presented</strong></td>
<td>-All content is described during presentation</td>
<td>-1-2 items not described during presentation or -1 piece of information described is inaccurate</td>
<td>-2-3 items not described during presentation or -2 pieces of information are inaccurate</td>
<td>-4 or more items not described or -2 or more pieces of information inaccurate</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Title</td>
<td>-All content described is accurate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Victims, suspects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Case summary, outcome</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2 pieces of evidence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 1 technique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- 2 pictures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professionalism</strong></td>
<td>-Items described in clear (understandable) manner</td>
<td>-Most items described in a clear (understandable manner)</td>
<td>-Items not described in clear, cohesive manner</td>
<td>-Unprofessional speaking voice, presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Clarity</td>
<td>-Very knowledgeable about case</td>
<td>-Few um’s, like’s but otherwise controlled speaking voice</td>
<td>-Many um’s, pauses</td>
<td>-Seems unknowledgeable about topic, unfamiliar with case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Speaking voice</td>
<td>-Loud and controlled speaking voice (smooth transitions, no um’s or long pauses)</td>
<td>-Knowledgeable about case</td>
<td>-Inaudible speaking voice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation Method</strong></td>
<td>-Quality visual used, colorful, professional looking and neat</td>
<td>-Visually appealing presentation method, mostly professional</td>
<td>-Not visually appealing or eye-catching, sloppy</td>
<td>-Overwhelmingly not visually appealing, method not present or 7+ errors in spelling/punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Visual eye-catching and neat</td>
<td>-No obvious spelling or punctuation errors</td>
<td>-Some obvious spelling/punctuation errors (3-5)</td>
<td>-7+ errors in spelling/punctuation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spelling/Punctuation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Timing</strong></td>
<td>-All elements handed in by appropriate date, prepared for presentation</td>
<td>-1 element not turned in by appropriate date</td>
<td>-Presentation shorter than 2 minutes</td>
<td>-Presentation not given or under 2 minutes with minimal points discussed</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Prepared/On time</td>
<td>-Presentation timed well, lasts at least 3 minutes and does not go over 4</td>
<td>-Presentation may be too short (2-2.59 range)</td>
<td>-Presentation off topic, only discussed a few points</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Presentation- 3-4 minutes</td>
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<td>-Presentation may be too long; did not discuss all points</td>
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</table>
Forensic Science Case Study Report Sheet

Title of Case: ________________________________________________________________

Who was involved in the case?

   Victim(s):

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

   Suspect(s)/ Accused:

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Case Details:

   Summarize the case in at least 5 sentences.

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
Evidence available (be specific- don’t just say “fingerprints, hair, gun powder residue”- describe what makes the evidence unique to the case):

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

One forensic technique highlighted in case (ex: DNA fingerprinting, dusting for powders, microscope analysis- techniques involve learning more about the evidence than meets the eye or finding evidence in a special way):

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Outcome/Results of case:

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

...
Notes/ Other Relevant Facts:

Resources- list of URLs/ books/ articles used:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.