

# Forensic Science Book Report/Case Study Presentation

For this assignment, you will be required to read a book that involves a criminal case in which forensic science played a key role in solving. This assignment not only ties in with the forensic science standards, but also with the common core state standards for reading and writing in the content area of science. **The expectation for this assignment is that YOU become the expert on this case; you are the owner of the knowledge about this case and should be able to tell the class what you know from memory.**

Below you will find an outline to help guide you as you read through your book. Filling it in as you read will help when it comes to creating your presentation for the class. Additionally, there is a point break down to allow you to see what I am looking for when it comes to grading your presentation.

Throughout the length of this project, you will be given 4 check-in dates when you will need to turn in a reading reflection so that I can determine if you are on track and how you are progressing through the project. These will be counted **as part of your project grade** so please make sure that you keep up (i.e. you should not wait until the night before it's due to start reading your book to complete the reflection). Procrastination is not going to work for this assignment. I realize that you all have many other responsibilities, which is why I am giving you plenty of time to work on this. Additionally, we will be implementing an in-class reading time to allow you time to read and work on this during the school day.

Your final presentation can be of any format that you choose (a PowerPoint, a Prezi, a poster, a display board, a website, video, etc.). There will be guidelines for the presentation in the rubric below and as long as the required components are there, you will get credit regardless of how you chose to present it. Presentations will begin before winter break and will resume after winter break. Make sure that you stay on track by following the timeline for the project.

## Book Report/Presentation Project Timeline

Due Date		What's Due?	Point value
Period 3	Period 5		
		Book <b>must</b> be brought to school and shown to Mrs. Ancheta in class – this will be the first day of class time reading.	10
		First reading reflection – 25 min	10
		Second reading reflection - 25 min	10
		Presentations begin (sign up on the calendar in the classroom for your presentation day)	100

# Reading Reflection

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_

Pages read for this reflection \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide a brief summary of the chapter(s) you have read. Include major events, key turning points, or pieces of scientific evidence that has come to light.**

**Select a quotation from the book that has triggered your interest or emotion and write it below (include the page number in which it can be found).**

**Response, reaction, or reflection on the quotation you selected.**

**Points of confusion or questions you have at this time:**

**Select two questions to answer about what you have read in the boxes below.**

1. Which part of what you read were you able to visualize the best and why? (visualization)
2. Who do you think would be interested in what you read and why? (critical evaluation)
3. Which part of your book are you having the most difficulty understanding? (personal

evaluation)

4. What was the main idea of the section or chapter you read? (finding main idea)

5. What was the author's purpose? Did they want to inform, entertain, persuade or describe? How do you know? (author's purpose)

6. While reading, what is something new you learned and would want to share with someone else? (personal evaluation)

7. Would you recommend this book to someone else? Why? (critical evaluation)

8. Did you form any opinions while reading this part book? What is it and why? (personal connection)

9. What do you think is going to happen next? Why do you think that? (critical evaluation)

Question # \_\_\_\_\_

Question # \_\_\_\_\_

## Presentation Requirements

Your presentation should be focused around your visual aid (your PowerPoint, display board, etc.) You are expected to give a presentation (not just read off of your slides or board). Remember: you are the expert on this case. You should be able to give the audience enough information about the case that they do not have questions at the end. If they do have questions, you should be able to answer them.

Visual Aid (20pts)	Must include the following: A <b>visual timeline</b> of major events throughout the case. <u>5pts</u> <b>Visual representations of artifacts/evidence/people</b> from the case, for example, a copy of the ransom note, photos from the crime scene or of evidence collected, pictures of the victim/suspect, etc. <u>5 pts</u>  <u>Diagram(s)</u> of the crime scene(s)/other important places relevant to the crime. <u>5 pts</u>  Brief explanations/text about the case. <u>5pts</u>
Timeline (15pts)	Describe the suspects behavior leading up to the crime. Was the crime premeditated or a crime of passion? What events led to the suspect to commit the crime? If serial killer, what led to his first murder? How was he/she not caught? A psychological profile on the criminal(s). <u>5 pts</u>  Details of the crime: What events took place during the crime? <u>10pts</u> What evidence was left at the scene and/or other evidence that was pertinent to the crime?
<b>Focus on the science in your presentation!</b> (25pts)	Use your knowledge from this class (or research you have done) to explain the science behind the forensic evidence. <u>10 pts</u> What good things did collectors do at the crime scene?  What mistakes did collectors make at the crime scene? (Preservation of Evidence/Chain of custody) <u>10 pts</u>  Events and behavior of suspect after the crime. How did they make their getaway? Did they do anything to cover up the crime? <u>5pts</u>
Finding the suspect (10pts)	How was the suspect found? <b>State how the evidence lead them to the suspect.</b> What successes did they have that lead to apprehending the suspect? What things hindered the case and may have given a false lead away from the suspect? <u>10 pts</u>
The trial (10pts)	The prosecution - How did the prosecution make their case? What mistakes did the prosecution make? What evidence led to conviction? <u>5 pts</u>  The defense - Did they plead guilty or innocent? How did the defense try and dispute the forensic evidence? What was the defenses overall plan? <u>5 pts</u>
Other info (5pts)	How has science (technology) changed since this crime? How would new technology effected this trial or outcome? Any other interesting information about the case. <u>5pts</u>
Your opinion (5pts)	State your opinion on guilty or innocent. State your opinion on their sentence. What would you have done differently? You must use details and evidence from the text in giving your argument. <u>10 pts</u>
Citations and Resources*	All resources must be cited appropriately, even pictures. <u>5 pts</u>

**Total = 100 pts**

# Book Report Outline

Fill this in as you read to help you in developing your ideas for you presentation. You may need more space than what has been provided, so use as many outlines as necessary for your case. Don't forget to write down the page numbers so you can go back and reference as needed.

<b>Possible suspects</b>	<b>Who:</b>	<b>Why:</b>	<b>Motive:</b>	<b>Page #s</b>
	<b>Who:</b>	<b>Why:</b>	<b>Motive:</b>	
<b>Details of the Crime</b>				<b>Page #s</b>
<b>Evidence (Be specific and detailed)</b>	What:	When was it found:	Implication:	<b>Page #s</b>
	What:	When was it found:	Implication:	
	What:	When was it found:	Implication:	
<b>Evidence Collection</b>	Good protocol:			<b>Page #s</b>

	Bad/questionable protocol:	
<b>Suspect behavior after the crime</b>		Page #s
<b>Finding the suspect</b>	When: How: Who was involved:	Page #s
<b>Trial</b>	Prosecution:  Defense:	Page #s
<b>Science and Technology</b>  <b>Other interesting facts</b>	How have things changed since the crime was committed?  Interesting Facts:	
<b>Develop your argument</b>	Your opinion on the outcome:  Details and evidence you want to discuss in your argument:	

# Book List

This list is just to give you a general idea of the types of books you may read. If you have something else in mind, please run it by me first for approval.

The Lindberg Baby Kidnapping in American History by Judith Edwards  
Catch Me If You Can by Frank Abagnale  
Portrait Of A Killer: Jack The Ripper Case Closed by Patricia Cornwell  
Evil Harvest by Rod Colvin  
My Dark Places by James Ellroy  
The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion by Evans E Skinner  
Starkweather by Jeff O'Donnell  
Forty Whacks: Lizzie Borden by David Kent  
Devils Knot by Mara Leveritt  
The Lives and Times of Bonnie and Clyde by E.R. Milner  
The Sheppard Murder Case by Paul Holmes  
The BTK Murders b Carlton Smith  
Helter Skelter by Vincent Bugliosi  
The Only Living Witness by Stephen G. Michaud and Hugh Aynesworth  
The Confessions of Henry Lee Lucas by Mike Cox  
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote  
Killer Clown: The John Wayne Gacy Murders by Terry Sullivan  
Ed Gein by Bill Cross or Anthony Woods  
Deviant: The Shocking True Story of Ed Gein by Harold Schechter  
The Jeffrey Dahmer Story: An American Nightmare by Don Davis  
JonBenet: Inside the Murder Investigation by Steve Thomas  
Ted Bundy: Conversations with a Killer by Stephen G. Michaud  
The Professional Serial Killer and the Career of Ted Bundy by Bonnie M Rippo  
Starkweather: Inside the Mind of a Teenage Killer by William Allen  
Need to Kill by Mark Pettit  
The Night Stalker by Philip Carlo  
The Ice Man: Confessions of a Mafia Contract Killer by Philip Carlo  
Gomorrah by Roberto Saviano  
A Mind for Murder by Alston Chase

Ann Rule and Joe McGinnis have many true crime books!