Unit I: Culminating Activity:

As your first culminating activity, you will research and write a newspaper article about a famous trial of the past.

There are several websites available with stories of famous criminal trials.

Below is a list of six famous court trials from history. Examine the list and skim through the attached links until you come up with one famous case that interests you most. Carefully read through the content attached to your selected trial.

[Salem Witchcraft Trials](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/SAL_ACCT.HTM)

[Louis Riel Trial](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/riel/rielaccount.html)

[1919 "Black Sox" Trial](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/blacksox/blacksoxaccount.html)

[Lizzie Borden Trial](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/LizzieBorden/bordenaccount.html)

[Lindy Chamberlain "Dingo" Trial](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/chamberlain/chamberlainaccount.html)

[Joan of Arc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_of_Arc#Trial)

Using the famous court trial you selected in the content section as your topic of study you will create a newspaper article report relating to the court case. You may alternatively select a famous court trial of your own in consultation with me.

Performing additional research on your own locate three Internet sites that assist you in further researching your case. You may use the research site provided in the content section and two other sites that you locate on your own. Create a page of point form typed notes based on your research. These rough notes will be submitted as part of your assignment. The following information should be covered in your page of notes.

* 1. Person(s) on trial
  2. Date of Trial
  3. Country / State in which the trial took place
  4. Charge on which the accused was tried
  5. Circumstances in which the charge was laid (background)
  6. Arguments used by the prosecution
  7. Arguments used by the defence
  8. Decision of the court: judge / jury?
  9. Sentence imposed
  10. Eventual fate of the accused

If you aren’t familiar with the format of a newspaper article, refer back to the “Alicia Ross” articles we read earlier in this unit.

Write a 250-300-word newspaper article on the case you have selected.

Date your article on the day the trial ended.

Don't forget a headline that leads to the key message of your article

Remember that a newspaper article is factual: you report the facts without taking sides or expressing an opinion.

News reports will be marked based on the following criteria:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Level I | Level II | Level III | Level IV |
| Does the article demonstrate strong comprehension of the case? | The article does not demonstrate strong comprehension of the case | The article demonstrates limited comprehension of the case | The article demonstrates good comprehension of the case | The article demonstrates excellent comprehension of the case |
| Does the article show thoughtful progression of ideas? | The article does not show thoughtful progression of ideas | The article shows some thoughtful progression of ideas | The article shows progression of ideas well | The article shows progression of ideas excellently |
| Does the article offer sufficient details? Are they well-chosen | The article does not offer sufficient details. They are not well-chosen | The article offers limited details. Some are well-chosen | The article offers good details. They are fairly well-chosen | The article offers excellent, well-chosen articles |
| Does the article demonstrate attention to detail? | The article does not demonstrate attention to detail | The article demonstrates limited attention to detail | The article demonstrates good attention to detail | The article demonstrates excellent attention to detail |