student activity 1

A History of Racial Injustice
Use the tool on the Equal Justice Initiative website and choose an event from our country’s past and answer the questions below.

The event you chose: ______________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

The date of the event (month, day, year): ________________________________

Summarize the event in your own words: ___________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Name of the victim(s): ____________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Name of the assailant(s): ________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Was justice served following the event? ____________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What connections can you form between this event and the United States’ past, present and future? (Consider the following questions: Did previous acts of racial injustice influence this one? Are similar acts still occurring today? How can we ensure that acts such as these are not repeated in our country moving forward?)
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Just Mercy
Your Closing Argument: Part 1
After choosing a case from the Innocence Project’s cases site, use these sheets to organize your thoughts and plan your closing argument. Consider a persuasive tone, statistics and facts to strengthen your prose, and the main message you want to leave with a judge and jury. Be sure to emphasize the injustices brought upon your client throughout his or her incarceration and/or trial. A successful closing argument will be based on thorough research into the case and your client.

*Please note: if you chose a case that has already been closed, approach this assignment as if it were still an open case.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Client</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>State:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conviction:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Date:</td>
<td>Conviction Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence:</td>
<td>Time Served:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of the Case: Be sure to state only necessary background information about the case. This can be taken directly from the Innocence Project’s cases site.

*To be read before you present your closing argument*
## The Facts

### Forensic Evidence:

### Circumstantial Evidence:

### Existing Statistics to Strengthen Argument:

Key terms to include:

What misinformation needs to be discredited?

Opening sentence:

Closing sentence:

Closing argument: