

student activity 1

Name _____ Date _____

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?)

student activity 2

Name _____ Date _____

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.*

Your Client	
Name:	State:
Charge:	
Conviction:	
Incident Date:	Conviction Date:
Sentence:	Time Served:

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

student activity 2

Name _____ Date _____

Your Closing Argument: Part 2

Use the space below to continue organizing your thoughts and plan 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: _____
