**INNOCENT AND BEHIND BARS**  
**“The Central Park Five Case”**  
Celina Burgo, Vashni John, Gurvinder Kaur, Kenny Lin, Shannah West  
Dr. Patricia Johnson Coxx & Peer Mentor, Ariana Castillo  
FYS AFR 123-03

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Introduction</strong></th>
<th><strong>Methods &amp; Materials</strong></th>
<th><strong>Conclusions</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BREAKING NEWS!** Five innocent young African-American and Latino boys were convicted of a crime. They will forever be known as the Central Park Five. We will reveal how the case would have been carried out if it occurred today. | **Methods**  
In order to compare how the case was treated in 1989, we searched for articles related to the important aspects of the case. These perspectives included the prosecution, defense, reporters, general public, and the police officers. General laws and procedures, and reactions to similar cases were also used to express how this case would be treated today. | Today, we have observed that the justice system does not really demonstrate actual justice.  
It is evident that when people of color are accused and convicted of crimes, the justice system makes decisions without taking actual evidence into consideration.  
This unfortunate process of speedy arrests under pressure to make a decision leaves many people of color innocent and behind bars. |
| **Research Question**  
How was the Central Park Five case viewed in 1989?  
How is it viewed today in light of the Innocence Project? | **Materials**  
- “The Central Park Five” documentary  
- Indictments of the five young boys  
- News articles surrounding the case |  |
| **Background**  
On the night of April 19, 1989 a large group of youths participated in a series of violent felony assaults in Central Park. Shortly after, a young woman jogging in the same park was raped, savagely beaten, and left to die.  
The young boys who were taken into the precinct for their acts of “wilding” were framed and blamed for the rape of the young woman! Today we know that those boys who were later convicted and served time for the woman's abuse had nothing to do with it. | **Findings**  
- **Police Officer** - Did not fully analyze evidence or follow proper investigative methods.  
- Unlawfully interrogated minors for longer than 13 hours.  
- **Defense Attorneys** - Were not well-acquainted with the case and were inadequate to defend.  
- Only one lawyer on the case had criminal justice experience.  
- **Reporters** - Misled the public to believe that the teenagers were guilty for the woman's rape.  
- **Prosecutor** - The prosecutors did not defend the victim to the best of their abilities because they did not use the DNA in the rape kit to compare it with the DNA of the five young boys.  
- **Prosecutor** - Gather enough probable cause to arrest a potential suspect.  
- Refrain from unlawfully interrogating a person longer than 13 hours.  
- **Defense Attorneys** - Would look into the cases to collect their own evidence.  
- Would evaluate the evidence already found and make sure that it related to the defendants.  
- **Reporters** - Would use public opinions and inside sources to uncover the truth and expose it to the public via social media or other public outlets.  
- **General Public** - The general public would not be swayed as easily because of the many wrongful convictions that have taken place in the past.  
- However, today the public will still be significantly influenced by whatever the media portrays as we pay heavy attention to what the media feeds us.  
- **Prosecutor** - Today, the prosecutors would gather a substantial amount of evidence to help bring justice to the victim.  
- They would still be pressed for time when it comes to solving cases quickly but would be pressured to obtain all evidence. |  |
| **Methods** | **Materials** | **References** |
| In order to compare how the case was treated in 1989, we searched for articles related to the important aspects of the case. These perspectives included the prosecution, defense, reporters, general public, and the police officers. General laws and procedures, and reactions to similar cases were also used to express how this case would be treated today. | **Police Officer** - Gather enough probable cause to arrest a potential suspect.  
- Refrain from unlawfully interrogating a person longer than 13 hours.  
- **Defense Attorneys** - Would look into the cases to collect their own evidence.  
- Would evaluate the evidence already found and make sure that it related to the defendants.  
- **Reporters** - Would use public opinions and inside sources to uncover the truth and expose it to the public via social media or other public outlets.  
- **General Public** - The general public would not be swayed as easily because of the many wrongful convictions that have taken place in the past.  
- However, today the public will still be significantly influenced by whatever the media portrays as we pay heavy attention to what the media feeds us.  
- **Prosecutor** - Today, the prosecutors would gather a substantial amount of evidence to help bring justice to the victim.  
- They would still be pressed for time when it comes to solving cases quickly but would be pressured to obtain all evidence. | Burns, K., McMahon, D., Burns, S., Squires, B., Savini, A., Wamble, D., McCray, A., ... PBS Distribution (Firm). (2013). The Central Park Five.  