You are a juror on the Chester Gillette case. You now must decide if Chester is guilty or not guilty of murder in the first degree. In your essay, explain the following:

1) Did you find Chester guilty or not guilty

2) How did you make this decision? What evidence did you use to help you make this decision? Why did you think this evidence was important in reaching your decision?

Murder in the First Degree:

**first degree murder** - although it varies from state to state, it is generally a killing which is deliberate and premeditated (planned, after lying in wait, by poison or as part of a scheme), in conjunction with felonies such as rape, burglary, arson, involving multiple deaths, the killing of certain types of people (such as a child, a police officer, a prison guard, a fellow prisoner), or with certain weapons, particularly a gun. The specific criteria for first degree murder are established by statute in each state and by the United States Code in federal prosecutions. It is distinguished from second degree murder in which premeditation is usually absent, and from manslaughter which lacks premeditation and suggests that at most there was intent to harm rather than to kill.


*You must remember that in New York State in 1906, first degree murder was an automatic death sentence. So, if vote to convict Chester of first degree murder, he WILL receive a death sentence.*

As a juror your decision must be **BEYOND a reasonable doubt.**

**Reasonable Doubt** refers to the degree of certainty required of a **juror** before he or she can make a legally valid determination of the guilt of a criminal **defendant.** These words are used in **instructions** to the **jury** in a criminal trial to indicate that innocence is to be presumed unless the jury can see no reasonable doubt of the guilt of the person charged. The term does not require that proof be so clear that no possibility of error exists; it means that the evidence must be so conclusive that all reasonable doubts are removed from the mind of the ordinary person.
Requirements:

1. The essay must be at least 500 words
2. There must be an introduction, main body and conclusion.
3. It must be typed, double spaced with 1 inch margins
4. The essay must follow all the rules of English grammar, and spelling must be correct
5. The essay must be properly researched and logically organized

Your sources of information can be:

- All class notes and handouts regarding Chester Gillette’s case
- The links that are listed below

Links for this essay:

If you are missing the article handed out in class here is the link:

http://cuomosite.com/law%20pages/HW%2036%20All.pdf

Other links that you are to use to help you reach your verdict; these are considered trial exhibits and transcripts:

http://www.murderpedia.org/male.G/g/gillette-chester.htm
http://www.craigBrandon.com/cgfaq.html

Grace Brown’s letter:
http://www.craigBrandon.com/Letter.html

If you are truly lazy and do not want to type the links, go to the class website:
www.cuomosite.com/law.html and click on the project page for this assignment and click on the links.

When you click on the link it will take you to the site.

Due Date: April 20, 2016
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<th>Score</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>Essay is 500 words or more and contains many supporting facts regarding the juror’s decision; essay is well organized and clearly thought out. Essay has an introduction, main body and conclusion.</td>
<td>Minimal to no errors in spelling or grammar.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Essay meets the 500 word limit. It contains 3 or more supporting facts that the juror used to reach the decision. Essay has all three parts, but there is a weakness in either the introduction or conclusion.</td>
<td>Some grammar and or spelling errors, but they do not detract from the overall readability of the paper.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Essay barely meets the minimum word limit. The essay barely has 3 supporting facts that the juror used to reach the decision. While the essay has a main body, it is missing an introduction or conclusion.</td>
<td>There are some major errors in spelling and grammar that detract from the overall readability of the paper. Paper does not have 1 inch margins and/or is not doubled space</td>
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<td>60-69</td>
<td>Essay is poorly written; barely 300 words or less. It is basically opinion without any real supporting facts. It is missing an introduction and conclusion.</td>
<td>Many spelling and grammar errors that make it difficult to follow the paper. Paper does not have 1 inch margins and/or is not doubled space</td>
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