

Serial Blogging Assignment



Assignment

Using the Bengalenglish.org account we created, your assignment is to write between 2-4 blog posts about Season 1 of the podcast *Serial*. Your potential topics are listed below, but you may create your own topic with prior approval from Mr. Pogreba.

Requirements

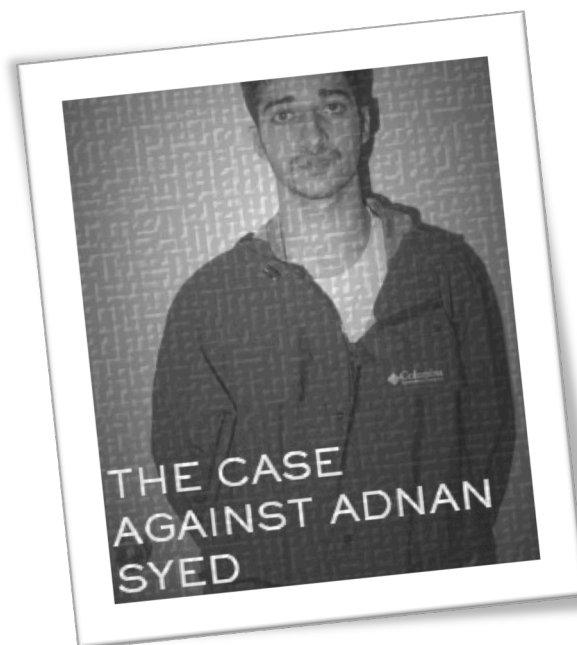
Each post should reflect basic conventions of writing: appropriate grammar, spelling, and conventions, but as there are some creative assignments, you can bend these rules as necessary. Each entry should reflect careful proofreading and attention to detail, from minor details like spelling names correctly to ensuring that your facts are correct.

If you choose to write a letter, make sure that you use correct formatting for a letter. Creative pieces can bend grammatical and structural requirements as necessary, but please make sure that they have a coherent, appropriate structure.

Each entry should be at least 400 words long.

Grading

- Number of pieces:
 - To have a chance to get an A on the assignment, you need to complete four entries by the due date.
 - To have a chance to get a B, you need to complete three entries by the due date.
 - To have a chance to get a C, you need to complete two entries by the due date.
- There will be no late work accepted on this assignment. It will be due on Feb 29th.



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Potential Topics

- Write a letter to Adnan expressing either your feelings that he is guilty or innocent and addressing why. Your piece can express what should happen to him as he pursues a new trial, your feelings about the case, concerns or frustrations with his behavior, and anything else.
- Write a piece describing your feelings about the legal system. Is it fair for young people? Does it seem primarily interested in determining the truth or are there other priorities?
- Write a creative piece from the perspective of Adnan the evening after the murder takes place or from the perspective of Jay the evening after he told his story to the police.
- Write a letter to Hae's family. Do you think the show was fair to them? Did the podcast exploit the family's grief?
- Write an argument about Adnan's behavior. Is he, as some claim, a duplicitous person who hid a dark side under a pleasant personality, or is it impossible to imagine that he really was capable of doing what he was convicted of. Is the truth somewhere in the middle?
- Write an argument that provides a reason to believe that Jay would have lied about the murder and his role. What could possibly have made him decide to do what he did, if he wasn't telling the truth.
- Using the podcast and our discussions with Officer Fisher, discuss your feelings about how the police investigate crimes. Do you have negative or positive feelings about their techniques? Why or why not?
- Read one of the articles on the classroom web page about eyewitness testimony in crimes and discuss concerns with its use in criminal cases.
- Write a closing argument for either the defense or prosecution in which you summarize the strongest case for your side.
- Can, as the state says about Jay, a person be wrong or even lying about the details, and still telling the truth?
- Write a summary of the relationship between Hae, Don, and Adnan. Analyze your feelings about the relationship and the way the others treat each other.