

English III Prompt: Adnan's Guilt or Innocence



Prompt

In the story told in the podcast Serial, Adnan Syed is tried as an adult for the crime he is charged with, even though he was only seventeen at the time. The United States is one of the few developed countries in the world that allows juveniles to be charged this way.

In a well-developed essay, play the role of a juror—and defend, refute or qualify the argument that Adnan Syed is likely to be guilty of the murder of Hae Lee. Your response should be qualified (suggestion a reason that gives you doubt about your point of view), but your essay should answer whether or not he should have been convicted, based on the information from the series and your own research.

A sample good thesis could look like this:

While there is no physical evidence tying Adnan to the crime, Jay's testimony and his obsession with Hae make it likely that he committed the murder he was charged with.

Requirements

- Please submit a typed response that uses a legible 12-point font, 1" margins, a double spaced body, and a simple single spaced header.
- The response should be between 800-1200 words long.
- Your response should include both an introduction and conclusion, both of which should be short and direct.
- The essay needs to include at least five and no more than seven quotes from the transcripts of the episodes and your own research.
- Make sure to follow all MLA formatting and rules for citation.
- Do not plagiarize!



Tips

- Have a well-developed thesis that you stick with. Organization is paramount.
- Follow the paragraph outline that I provided you with the essay. While you can do more than the structure demands, each paragraph should meet these minimum requirements.
- Focus on a few things in this essay:
 - An engaging introduction.
 - A strong thesis statement that suggests a concession.
 - Incorporating specific details into your paragraphs to give them power and interest.
 - A strong conclusion.
- Resources for the essay are located on this web page:
<http://www.quixoticpedagogue.org/english-iii-a-serial-investigation/>