**Preliminary Research**



**Objectives:**

* Become familiar with the case: relevant offense(s), statement of facts, brainstorm potential strategies and next steps.
* Become familiar with the essence of your role in the legal system (i.e. Crown/Defense Attorneys, Judges, Witnesses, etc).
* Build individual knowledge/capacity to make future collaboration productive.

This work should be done mostly on your own; of course offering “great finds/ideas” is welcomed. **Please submit by Wednesday April 29th**.

**Step 1: Read the provided documentation on your case**

**Step 2: Case Familiarity (focus: content and concept knowledge, some critical thinking)**

1. Sum up the relevant facts of the case. Note which facts are agreed upon and those where there would be disagreement between the Crown and Prosecutor’s perspectives.
2. Using the [Criminal Code of Canada](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/) (or the relevant international law sources), note the offenses the accused is being charged with. Describe the elements of mens rea, actus reus, specific components the Crown must prove and any sentence guidelines that may exist. Note that you may have to look at multiple sections and/or there may be multiple charges.
3. Consider how the known facts of the case line up with the offenses. *Prima facie* (on the surface/face value), what evidence is there to support these charges being laid?
4. From the perspective of your position, what would 2-3 parts of your strategy be to achieve a conviction/acquittal in this case? For judges, what would you want to see in order to render a guilty or not-guilty verdict?

**Step 3: Role Familiarity (focus: content and concept knowledge, critical thinking)**

1. What are the professional/educational requirements for your particular role in this case?
2. Guidelines
   * Judges and lawyers- how are you appointed to your position? What professional guidelines/associations exist in support of your work?
   * Witnesses- what guidelines exist regarding the use of expert witnesses? What guidelines exist regarding the use of “lay-person” witnesses in the court room?

**Step 4: Prediction (focus: critical thinking, writing)**

1. Make a prediction as to the verdict of your trial. What will be the deciding factor? Explain in a short paragraph.