**Wrongfully Convicted Assignment**

**Introduction:**

There are many well-known cases in Canada of individuals who have been wrongfully convicted of a crime. Each of the 14 people listed below have served time in jail for crimes they did not commit.

The Federal government has established a commission to provide compensation to these individuals. *Some already had compensation awarded, but due to budget restraints the government is revoking those claims in order to reassess them.*

**Assignment:**

Your task is to represent your client to the commission and apply for compensation for them.

**David Milgaard**

**Donald Marshall**

**Kyle Unger**

**James Driskell**

**Guy Paul Morin**

**Steven Truscott**

**Erin Michael Walsh Romeo Phillion**

**Ronald Dalton**

**Randy Druken**

**Gregory Parsons**

**Robert Baltovich**

**William Mullins-Johnson**

**Thomas Sophonow**

**Chris McCullough**

**Tammy Marquardt**

**Ivan Henry**

If the case involves *wilful incompetence* (deliberate error) on the part of the police or crown, your client will receive more compensation than a case *involving negligence* (honest mistake). Please keep in mind that DNA testing was not readily available in the 80’s or 90’s.

**Instructions:**

* The Commission (Mr. Campbell) is very busy and doesn’t have time to verify all the facts of your client’s case, so please provide them with references.
* As this is a professional piece of work make sure that your presentation is clear, concise and spell checked. Use Power Point, Prezi or other presentation software.
* With a partner, you will present your case to your teacher and class as though we were the commission granting compensation.

Some useful sites – as well as the databases are:

* <http://www.milgaardinquiry.ca/> - is specific to the Milgaard case
* [http://www.canlii.org/en/](http://www.canlii.org/en/%20%20)  - is the site that gives you the actual court documents.
* <http://www.innocenceproject.ca/> -
* <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2009/08/06/f-wrongfully-convicted.html>
* <http://wrongfullyconvicted.blogspot.com/>
* <http://www.injusticebusters.com/injusticestories.htm>

**Your application must include as much of the following information as possible:**

1. Name of the accused.
2. If they were using a different name at any time, what was it?
3. Date of birth.
4. City of residence at the time of the crime?
5. What offence were they accused of?
6. When were they arrested?
7. When were they formally charged?
8. Were they granted bail or remanded in custody?
9. At which court did the trial take place?
10. Was it a jury trial or judge alone?
11. What were the offences they were tried for and what was the outcome for each one?
12. What was the date of the first appeal against conviction?
13. Briefly explain the appeal process that your client used to have their conviction overturned. Indicate when they were successful.
14. Had your client completed the original sentence before their appeal was successful?
15. When was your client released from prison?
16. Has your client been exonerated (cleared from guilt, blame) of the crime? If so, what factors led to this happening? (new evidence, testimony etc.)
	1. If your client has not been exonerated, what is their status with regard to the crime?
17. What amount of money are you applying for and why? What are the criteria that you are using to request money?
18. Is there any other information you would like the commission to consider?

**Assessment**

References/Sources: **/5**

* Did you use reliable sources to complete your research?
* Did you use your own words in your work?

**Presentation Information**

Background Information: **/5**

* Did you provide us with background information on your client and the people involved?

Case Explanation: **/20**

* Did you explain in detail what happened to your client? Why they were convicted? How and why the decision was overturned, etc?

Compensation explanation/justification: **/10**

* Did you explain or justify why your client deserved/deserves compensation as well as the amount of compensation they received or should receive?

**Overall Presentation**  **/10**

* Did you and your partner share the responsibility of speaking about the case to the class?
* Were you both familiar with the case and the information?
* Was the information well organized and laid out in the visual presentation?
* Was it easy to comprehend and follow along sequence of events within the presentation?