**Serial: Season One**

You’ve heard the evidence. Now here’s a chance to reflect on the case and the story itself. Select one of the following topics and write a thoughtful, organized response.

This essay will contain the following basics:

 A. A hook that leads into an interesting introduction

 B. A precise, accurate, and thoughtful thesis statement that lays out what the paper will be about.

 C. At least three paragraphs that thoughtfully and accurately support the thesis.

 D. An organizational plan that leads to an interesting closure.

 E. A conclusion that wraps up the essay with a final “punch”.

 F. The essay will follow rules of punctuation, grammar, and composition. This will be your best writing.

We will use class time to prewrite and organize your thoughts before you begin writing.

**The essay will be due Tuesday, May 24, to turnitin.com by 5 pm.**

**TOPIC IDEAS:**

1. Sarah Koenig, the narrator and reporter, has shaped this story to entertain an audience. It remains the most downloaded podcast of all time. Take a closer look at how she presented this story and explain the storytelling techniques she used to make this podcast so engaging. Write an expository/analytical essay that shows how Sarah Koenig uses these storytelling techniques to create a compelling story.

2. Write an argumentative essay in which you explain whether or not Sarah Koenig, the reporter, has a bias in her story. Does she seem to be neutral? Or does she seem to take one side over the other? Does she seem to clearly not like some people over others?

3. Write an organized, thoughtful exploration of the reasons that you think Adnan is guilty or innocent. Support your response with precise and well documented information from the podcast.

4. Or maybe there’s something you’d like to explore about this case in more depth? Talk to me! Choose your own topic.

**Serial Essay Evaluation Rubric**

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|  | **Highly Proficient** | **Proficient** | **Nearly Proficient** | **Emerging** | **Not Present** |
| **Thesis** | The hook and the introduction lead seamlessly into a well-organized thesis statement. | The thesis statement clearly lays out the argument or plan for the paper. The rest of the essay follows from the thesis statement. | The thesis statement is present and is related to the rest of the essay. The rest of the paper may or may not address all elements of the thesis statement. | The thesis statement may be present, though vague or misleading. | The essay is too short to evaluate this. |
| **Organization** | The introduction, thesis, body, and conclusion all show a seamless, thoughtful plan. The plan strengthens the argument or analysis. | There is a clear introduction, thesis, body, and conclusion. | There is a weak introduction, body, and conclusion. These may not be separated by paragraphs, or these sections may not logically follow from one to the other. | The sections of the essay are too short or there appears to be no plan to the essay. | The essay is too short to evaluate this. |
| **Conventions** | There are no errors in capitalization and sentence construction. There are no errors in any part of the essay. | There are no errors in capitalization and sentence construction. There are very few errors elsewhere. | There may be a few minor errors and/or types. | Sentences and names are not capitalized. Other errors make the essay difficult to read. | The essay is too short to evaluate this. |
| **Voice** | Written with expression or emotion. Original, individual, passionate. Paints a picture. Expanded vocabulary. | Use of expanded vocabulary is attempted and adequate. Creative use of sentence structure. | Word choice is functional, simplistic, ordinary sentence structure and a Basic/limited vocabulary. | Limited vocabulary; simple words; student doesn’t understand. Not purposeful.  | The essay is too short to evaluate this. |