

Legal Brief: The Boston Massacre

Assignment:

As a lawyer assisting in the defense or the prosecution of the British soldiers accused of murder in the Boston Massacre, you must write a legal brief (essay) to explain why you think the soldiers or the colonists of Boston were to blame for the massacre.

Instructions:

1. Your brief should be 5 paragraphs long.
2. Your brief should present evidence to explain one reason why the colonists or the soldiers were to blame for the Boston Massacre.
3. Your brief should counter one opposing claim.
4. Your brief should be persuasive and convincing. Use facts, statistics, and at least one witness account. Cite your sources within the text.
5. Use your reading and websites on the Boston Massacre.

The Brief:

1. Create a frame paragraph. Use the provided handout.
2. Create paragraphs from your frame. Remember to use the Green-Yellow-Red paragraph structure.
3. Make sure you have topic sentences and facts to explain your decision, and use transition words within your paragraph.
4. Your audience is **the jury and the community of Boston**.
5. Write in the **third person, past tense**.
6. Your brief should be free of grammatical and spelling errors.
7. Your brief should be written in blue or black pen, or printed. (front side only)
 - a. Print: readable font, size 12, line spacing: 1.5 to 2
8. Include a work cited page. Use the provided handout to help you.

The Cover

1. Create a cover for your brief. The cover should have
 - A heading
 - A title
 - A picture that illustrates your point of view with a caption of 3 bullet points

Turn in your project in this order:

- Title page with heading
- Final essay
- Work cited
- Packet – frame paragraphs

Grade

1. Cover – 10
2. Essay – 50
3. Packet - frame paragraphs (attached) – 20

Total = 80 points

Heading:

Title _____

Introduction Guide (Green: Go! Try to answer the following questions in your introduction):

- Create a hook. You can do this last.
- **Briefly** explain what happened in the tragic Boston Massacre
 - Use your reading, links, and leave in/out activity
 - When? Where?
 - Why was there a crowd? Who fired on the crowd?
 - How many dead, wounded?
 - Other Facts?
- **Thesis Statement:** Who were to blame for the Boston Massacre: the British Soldiers or the Colonists? List 1 reason.

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Hook:
Background on the Boston Massacre:
Thesis Statement: Who were to blame for the Boston Massacre? Why – give 2 reasons:

Instructions: Body Paragraphs: Use the frame paragraph

- **Paragraph 2: Body Paragraph: Give one reason to blame a side for the Boston Massacre.**

<p>Yellow: Topic Sentence State your claim. Give one reason to blame the British soldiers or the Boston colonists for the Boston Massacre.</p>	<p>First, the were </p>
<p>Red: Present your evidence. Prove your claim. Use facts, statistics, and one witness statement.</p> <p>Quote Reminder: The witness, _____, said, “I (name of witness) saw guns and injuries” (Linder). This testimony showed . . .</p>	<p><u>Examples of Evidence:</u> Facts/Statistics to back up your claim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • <p><u>Evidence:</u> Witness Statement to corroborate the facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The witness, _____, said, “ (_____).
<p>Red: Explain and elaborate: Connect the evidence to your reason for blame. Why does the evidence prove the British soldiers or the Boston colonists were to blame for the Massacre?</p>	<p>The evidence clearly proved </p>

Instructions: Body Paragraphs: Use the frame paragraph

• **Paragraph 4: Body Paragraph: Counter an opposing claim.**

<p><u>Yellow: Topic Sentence</u> <u>Opposing claim.</u> Give one opposing <u>claim/reason</u> – a claim from a person who does not agree with your position.</p>	<p>On the other hand, the prosecution/defense (circle one) argued</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><u>Red: Present examples of the opposing evidence.</u> Prove the opposition wrong. Use facts, statistics, and one witness statement.</p> <p><u>Quote Reminder:</u> The witness, _____, said, “I (name of witness) saw guns and injuries” (Linder). This testimony showed . . .</p>	<p>The opposing side presented many claims to prove their case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <hr/> <p><u>Evidence:</u> Witness Statement for the opposing claim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The _____ stated, “ <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>(_____).</p>
<p><u>Red: Explain and elaborate: Connect the evidence to counter the opposition’s claim.</u> Why does the evidence prove the opposing claim was wrong or absurd?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the source biased? 	<p>However, The evidence proved the prosecutor’s/defense attorney’s claim was absurd!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Rough Draft Work Cited

- Cite works **alphabetically** using the first word in the entry. (Don't use The).
- Don't forget to indent **after** the first line. You can use easy.bib.

Textbook:

Author. *Book Title*. City: Publisher, year published.

Davidson, James West and Stoff, Michael. <i>My World</i> : _____.
_____, AZ: Pearson _____, 2019.

- If you use this source within your essay, cite within the text like this. Use parenthesis:
- (Davidson, page number you used).

Boston Gazette article from internet source:

"Name of article," *name of website*, date you accessed (day month year), web address.

"Boston Massacre as reported in the _____"
<i>Boston Massacre Historical</i> _____, _____
2020, < http://www.bostonmassacre.net >.

- If you use this source within your essay, cite within the text like this. Use parenthesis:
- (Boston Massacre as reported in the Boston Gazette).

Facts, timeline, and witnesses from the Boston Massacre Historical Society website:

Name of website. Website address. Date you accessed. (day month year)

<i>The Boston Massacre Historical</i> _____.
http://www.bostonmassacre.net/contact.htm . Accessed _____ 2020.

- If you use this source within your essay, cite within the text like this. Use parenthesis:
- (Boston Massacre Historical Society).

Witness testimony for Boston Massacre from Famous Trials website with no author:

"Name of Article," *Name of webpage*. Name of sponsor, date of publication, website address. Date you accessed. (day month year)

"The Trial of Captain Preston: Key Evidence," <i>Famous Trials</i> , UMKC School of _____,
_____, 2020, http://www.famous-trials.com . Accessed _____
_____ 2020.

- If you use this source within your essay, cite within the text like this. Use parenthesis:
- (The Trial of Captain Preston: Key Evidence).

Quote example with ellipses:

Captain Preston stated, "On this a general attack was made on the men by a great number of heavy clubs and snowballs . . . by which all our lives were in imminent danger . . ." (The Trial of Captain Preston: Key Evidence).

Work Cited

“Boston Massacre as reported in the _____”
<i>Boston Massacre Historical</i> _____, _____
_____ 2020, < http://www.bostonmassacre.net >.

<i>The Boston Massacre Historical</i> _____.
http://www.bostonmassacre.net/contact.htm . Accessed _____ 2020.

Davidson, James West and Stoff, Michael <i>My World</i> : _____.
_____, AZ: Pearson _____, 2020.

The Trial of Captain Preston: Key Evidence. <i>Famous Trials</i> , UMKC School of _____,
2020, http://www.famous-trials.com . Accessed _____
2020.

Brief	Great	Good	Fair/Needed Work
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> interesting hook had clear, organized background information, sequence of events all accurate information strong thesis statement used interesting, creative language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ok hook sequence of events needed more detail or organization, parts unclear a few inaccuracies good thesis statement some strong language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needed hook/fair hook sequence of events unclear, confusing, disorganized inaccurate information fair thesis statement needed stronger language mistakes made hard to understand
Body: Facts and witness accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearly stated reason/opposing claim, creative sentence excellent use of evidence: facts/statistics, details, quote appropriate use of witness statement clearly explained importance of the witnesses and facts/quotes proved reason for blame excellent counter to opposing claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stated reason/opposing claim good use of evidence: facts/statistics, quote – could have given a stronger example or more detail appropriate use of witness statement needed to explain importance of the witness and facts/quotes a little more needed to prove reason a little more needed more to counter opposing claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needed to state a clear reason/opposing claim fair use of evidence: needed more information used witness statement – needed to be longer or more relevant needed to explain importance of the witnesses and facts/quotes better needed to prove reason did not clearly counter opposing claim mistakes made hard to understand
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> effectively restated thesis statement clearly summarized evidence ended strong – made a case for freeing or imprisoning soldiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simple restatement of thesis statement summarized most evidence ok ending – could have been stronger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needed to restate thesis statement needed to better summarize evidence needed to end stronger
Paragraph Structure Creativity, Originality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clear intro, body, conclusion well-organized, included topic sentences, facts, and explanations. had excellent transitions went beyond the provided frame, more creative and original used creative, persuasive language proper Work Cited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> intro, body, conclusion used topic sentences and followed the basic guidelines of the provided frame. simple transitions could have been more original, creative had some persuasive language Work Cited OK – a few mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unclear intro, body, conclusion needed more organization and to follow the guidelines of the provided frame, hard to follow needed transitions lacked persuasive language, originality Work Cited incorrect/missing
Spell/Gram.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> error Free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a few mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some mistakes
Brief Cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creative and original. appropriate pictures and thoughtful explanations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> good picture needed more explanation, thought, effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needed work on explanations and pictures, effort