Assignment Name: Criminal Justice in the News (CJiTN)

Due Date

**PURPOSE:**

**Skills:** The purpose of this assignment is to gain an understanding of how criminal justice and criminology theories, themes, and concepts relate to the real world/work of criminologists and criminal justice professionals. The assignment will help you practice the following skills:

* Identify core concepts in criminology and criminal justice
* Illustrate how criminal justice and criminology concepts, themes, and theories introduced in the classroom have real world applicability
* Engage in critical thinking to gain a better understanding of the society in which you live
* Communicate criminological knowledge in the discipline in appropriate written form

**Knowledge:** This assignment will also help you to become familiar with the following important content knowledge in the criminology and criminal justice:

*Theoretical perspectives*

Rational Choice theory

Trait theory

Social Structure theory

Social Process theory

Critical theory

Developmental theory

*Constitutional Amendments*

1st Amendment

2nd Amendment

4th Amendment

5th Amendment

6th Amendment

8th Amendment

9th Amendment

14th Amendment

*Criminal Justice themes/concepts*

War on Drugs

War on Terror

Victimization

Criminal Justice ethics

Death penalty

Bail reform

Recidivism

Race, Gender, Class and the Criminal Justice System

**THE TASK:**

Explanation of Activity: For each CJiTN assignment you will do the following:

Locate a current news article from a reputable online news source (such as the Associated Press, NPR, Washington Post, Time, Newsweek, etc.), concerning criminal justice themes/concepts. Suggestion: Go to “Google” and go to the “news” tab. Type in a theme, concept or even the title of the chapter that we are studying that week. Search for a current news article (within the last six months).

Read the article and determine if it meets the current news article time frame of 6 months. Determine if the article has enough information on the theme/concept you chose.

Use the template provided to complete your two-paragraph summary of the article, and then complete a third paragraph that links what the news article is saying back to your chosen theme/concept.

Make sure that you DO include the hyperlink where located in the template. THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Make sure that you DO include citations in your paper from your textbook. You may simply cite as follows: (Text, p. xxx). Insert the page number where you located information where the xxx is in the example.

Make sure that your article is within the 6-month time frame (count backward from the due date 6 months). If the due date is November 11th, and the article is written on February 7th, then the article is not within the six-month time frame.

Check your grammar and spelling.

Do NOT directly copy the article word for word for your summary. Your summary is your words, not the author’s.

**Criteria:**

The criteria for each CJiTN assignment is as follows:

You MUST use the template provided. The template is there to help you follow the instructions and gain the maximum points for the assignment. If you fail to use the template the project will be returned to you for a revision.

Each paragraph MUST contain at least five sentences. Last paragraph must contain in-text citations from your text.

You MUST include the hyperlink where located in the template. If you fail to insert the hyperlink, the project will be returned to you for a revision.

You MUST include citations in your paper from your textbook.

You MUST make sure that your article is within the 6-month time frame (count backward from the due date 6 months). If the article is not within a 6-month time frame, your assignment will be returned to you with a zero and you will be allowed 48 hours to redo the assignment.

Check your grammar and spelling count.

Do NOT directly copy the article word for word for your summary. Your summary is your words, not the author’s. If you directly copy the article (Plagiarism), then the assignment will be returned to you with a zero. You will be allowed 48 hours to redo the summary.