

## *The Fantastic Five*

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**To:** Dr. Julie Kearney  
**From:** Team 5  
**Date:** February 8, 2006  
**RE:** A proposal to facilitate the O.J. Simpson trial

### **PURPOSE**

For our team facilitation we propose to analyze the ethical concerns and use of communication during the O.J. Simpson trial.

During the trial of O.J. Simpson ethical issues arose such as racism, distorting the facts, money, fame and fortune, and bias toward athletes or super stars. Communication during the trial was considered biased due to the mass media coverage. There was also miscommunication between the prosecution and defense as well as other authorities.

Our team will gather information from numerous sources such as newspapers, articles, editorials, and the court transcripts and reports. Due to the miscommunication and biased mass media coverage of the case, we will try our best to give a fair and balanced presentation.

### **PROBLEMS TO BE INVESTIGATED**

In researching our topic we hope to determine the answers to the following questions:

- 1) How did the media inspire the public opinion?
- 2) Did O.J. Simpson's status affect the media coverage and outcome of the trial?
- 3) Did one police officer's racist opinion affect the evidence?

### **METHODS OF RESEARCH**

Most of our research will be done electronically with use of the Internet as well as literary resources available at the Penn State Library. We used the following sources to collect information.

**SCHEDULE**

As a group, we hope to complete all of our research by March 1, 2006, when our readings to the class are due. The following two weeks are to be used for the preparing and planning our facilitation. We will then present our facilitation, to the class, on March 15.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL**

We ask that you approve our topic on the ethical issues and miscommunication of the O.J. Simpson trial and our approach to it. We would appreciate any suggestions or comments that you have for us to improve our facilitation.

Thank you.

The Fantastic Five (Team 5)