Serial murder is neither a new phenomenon, nor is it uniquely American. Dating back to ancient times, serial murderers have been chronicled around the world. One reason people tend to think that serial murder is a frighteningly new phenomenon is that, until about twenty years ago, no one ever heard of such a thing. For most of the twentieth century, the news media never referred to serial killers. But that isn’t because homicidal psychos didn’t exist in the past. Serial murder is a relatively rare event, estimated to comprise less than one percent of all murders committed in any given year. However, there is a macabre interest in the topic that far exceeds its scope and has generated countless articles, books, and movies.

Serial killers tend to prey on women and children of their same race. Prostitutes, drifters and hitchhikers are their victims of choice. Some homosexual killers enjoy hunting young boys and gay men. Female serial killers tend to be "black widows" who kill a succession of husbands, lovers, or other family members. They can also be nurses or other medical professionals who become self-appointed "angels of death" murdering babies, elderly, or the desperately ill in a misguided effort to relieve their suffering. Most serial killers grew up in violent households. As youngsters they enjoyed torturing animals, setting fires and were chronic bed-wetters. As adults, many serial killers have some type of brain damage and are addicted to alcohol and/or drugs.

Project Overview:
You will research the historical attributes of a specific serial killer, create a PowerPoint presentation, and then present your report to the class.

The Research:
Alone or in pairs, you will select one serial killer from the following list or other with teacher approval:

- David Berkowitz
- Ted Bundy
- Ed Kemper
- Peter Kurten
- Ed Gein
- Andrei Chikatilo
- Marybeth Tinning
- Jack the Ripper
- Nicolas Claux
- Vlad Dracula
- Ian Brady
- Albert Fish
- Charles Manson
- Henry Lee Lucas
- Jeffrey Dahmer
- Ted Kaczynski
- Nannie Doss
- Nancie Doss
- Fritz Haarmann
- Arthur Shawcross
- Joel Rifkin
- Myra Hindley
- John Wayne Gacy
- Richard Ramirez
- John Christie
- Albert Desalvo
- Mary Ann Cotton
- Dorothea Puente
- Wayne Williams
- H.H. Holmes

Part 1: Research criminal profiling: On a separate sheet of paper you will answer the following general questions about the criminal profile of a serial killer. The answers should be typed and you will submit one for each person in your group.

a. What is the general profile for a serial killer?
b. What are the types of serial killers?
c. How does a profile change depending upon the type? Examples?
d. Describe the typical childhood of a serial killer.
e. General behavioral progression from pre-crime to post-crime.
f. Briefly describe how fantasy plays into serial killer crimes.
g. Describe the biological and environmental factors connected to serial killer behavior.
h. What types of things are often used by criminologists to build an accurate profile?
Part 2: **Power Point: Research specific questions about your serial killer:** For your second task, you will answer the following questions about your assigned serial killer. Be sure to address each of these questions and create a powerpoint presentation about your serial killer.

a. What was their childhood like?
b. Were there any precursors? Did childhood behavior reflect problems?
c. What was their adult life like? Did they finish high school/college? Did they marry? Have children? Were they loners?
d. Were they ever diagnosed with a mental disorder? Did they ever receive treatment?
e. What was the nature of their crimes? What was the time span for their crimes? How many victims?
f. What was their behavior like when they were caught?
g. Were they found capable to withstand trial?
h. What were they charged with and sentenced to?
i. Are they still alive? Or did they die differently than their sentence?

*You must use a minimum of five sources,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The PowerPoint:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your PowerPoint needs to contain the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A minimum of 10 total slides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A minimum of five photos – one of which must be the person you are researching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Answer (in some form) the questions that you are researching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A list of references.</td>
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</tbody>
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Part 3: **The Presentation:**
The presentation needs to be 3 to 5 minutes in length, and every member of your group needs to share in speaking.

The total project will count as 2 separate grades.

Part 1: Worth 50 points and counted as a case study (classwork).
Part 2 and Part 3: PowerPoint: Worth 150 Points and count as an exam grade

PROJECT (Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3) IS DUE TUESDAY MAY 10th – Presentations will occur on the 10th

**WARNING!!!**

- You will have two days of class time to work on the entire project. Use your time wisely!!!
- 10 point deduction for each day that the project is late.
- After 5 days the maximum grade you can receive will be a 50.
# Rubric for Speaking Portion of Powerpoint

**Group Members:** __________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Max. Points</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum 10 slides in PowerPoint</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picture of Serial Killer</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 additional pictures/video clip</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete answers of main questions (DETAILED description of method or procedures used by killer)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography (last slide)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters are able to field questions from audience</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Presenters demonstrate knowledge at expert-level</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation is conversational, rather than “read”.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Required time</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Productive use of class time</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
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