Research Papers in Criminal Justice

- Patricia Brown, Ph.D.
- Arnold LeDoux Library, LSUE
• Understand your assignment. Brainstorm a list of search terms. Read an encyclopedia article if you are unfamiliar with your topic. Browse reference works.

• Choose search terms carefully. Broad: crime, criminology, trial, criminal behavior, law, morality. Specific: particular crimes, news events, laws. Use a catalog or database result to discover more subject terms.

• Take reference notes first! Draft a reference list you can refer to and revise as needed.

Starting a literature search
The door to the electronic library: www.lsue.edu/library
Types of sources

- Printed books
- Print journals
- Electronic books, reference, and journal articles
- Electronic databases and indexes
- Government websites
- Other resources
Individual databases

- *CQ Researcher* for in-depth subject reports.
- *Lexis-Nexis* for news and legal cases.

**LeDoux Discovery:** an electronic library tool that searches the library catalog and most databases.

**Databases for CJ**
The search screen, with results
Record of full-text article

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TEXT:

[*271]

Introduction

This is a critical analysis of the controversial killing of Trayvon Martin, a young, Black teen from South Florida. The details of the killing remain contentious, laden with competing theories of murder and self-defense. For some, this is a case about race. For some, this is a case about neighborhood watch and protecting oneself or, instead, illegal vigilante justice. For others, it may be a case about prosecutorial discretion and law enforcement accountability. Still, others find this to be a case about Florida's Stand Your Ground Law. Fundamentally, the Martin killing is a hybrid case about both race and law, and the government's response to each. It is about how one killing can trigger provocative issues so that public outcry and media coverage combine to ignite intense passion across the country and throughout the world. Due to the latent, but smoldering embers surrounding race, crime, and (in)justice, the community was essentially primed to react. In fact, a strong reaction swelled. Based on this confluence of circumstances, the Martin killing sparked a flame in the American discourse that goes beyond any simple explanation as to why a bullet was shot into this young man's chest. The Martin killing, to
ARTICLES


Tamara F. Lawson*

INTRODUCTION ................................................................. 271

I. THE WOUND: THE PAINFUL PAST AND CONTINUED RE-INJURY ..... 274

II. THE RESPONSE: PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION AND INTEREST CONVERGENCE .................................................. 284

III. THE UNDERSTANDING: THE NECESSARY FIRST STEP TOWARD REFORM .................................................................... 297

CONCLUSION ........................................................................ 310

INTRODUCTION

This is a critical analysis of the controversial killing of Trayvon Martin, a young, Black teen from South Florida. The details of the killing remain contentious, laden with competing theories of murder
The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) is the standard for this field. Although it differs in detail from MLA, Chicago, and other documentation systems, all formats require the same four (or five) items:

- Author
- Title
- Publisher
- Date
- Web address only for electronic sources

Use APA style: take reference notes first!
• If you refer without quoting, use author/s and date, like this:
  Lawson (2012) reviewed the legal aspects of the case.

• If you quote, use quotation marks and cite the page number at the end, like this:
  “… use of several legal precedents” (Lawson, 2012, p. 272).
  OR
  Lawson (2012) argued for “several legal precedents” (p. 272).

• Double-check for accuracy!
If you get stuck...

- E-mail your instructor
- Visit or call your instructor during office hours
- E-mail the reference librarian
- Call the librarian during regular hours (337) 550-1385
- Go to the library during regular hours