

# Central Park Five Guided Questions

Directions: Please respond to the following questions as we discuss, view and analyze the Central Park Five case.

April 19, 1989

- 1) How do you think the events in the park impacted the perception of the police officers?

The discovery.

- 1) There were many victims in this case. One is the woman who was attacked, who for many years remained hidden from the public eye. However, now that she is comfortable speaking and sharing her story of survival it is important that we speak her name. What was the name of the victim in the park?
- 2) What about her condition made the case more difficult to solve?

The suspects.

- 1) Why were the five boys suspected of the attack on Meili?

The interrogation.

- 1) What tactics did the police use to convince the boy's to confess?
- 2) What evidence was lacking in connecting the boys to the crime scene?
- 3) Why do you think juveniles are more likely to falsely confess during interrogations?

### The media.

- 1) How did the media portray the boys involved in the attack? What was troublesome about this comparison?
  
- 2) What impact do you think the media had on the case?
  
- 3) What headline did you think was the most upsetting? Why?

### The trial & sentencing.

- 1) In your opinion, what was the most shocking element of the trial and subsequent sentencing?

### The exoneration.

- 1) Matias Reyes admitted to the rape of Meili, all of the Central Park Five already served their time for the crime that Reyes committed. What is an appropriate course of action in a situation like this?

### The lawsuit.

- 1) React to the findings of the NYPD investigation.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) React to the \$40 million dollar settlement.

## The aftermath.

- 1) Why do you think Ken Burns created a documentary and Ava DuVernay created a dramatic tv-series about the Central Park Five?
- 2) What impact does the work of Burns and DuVernay have on society? Were you familiar with their work prior to this lesson?

*extra space for thoughts & notes.*