

---

# *Writer's Statement for "A Case of Unlawful Discourse: The Steven Avery Case and Discourse Analysis on Manitowoc County"*

---

NICOLE KOGUT

As a health sciences major, I was initially planning on writing a research article involving the differences between Allopathic Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathy. However, I soon discovered that the current literature on this topic is plentiful and some of my peers had already planned on embarking in similar research. I really wanted to do something unique, so in an anxious state I walked into Professor Ringfield's office and started spit-balling off topic ideas. The first few were less than stellar. I sighed and put my hand on my forehead before I chuckled and half-jokingly said, "What if I did my paper on *Making a Murderer*?" Professor Ringfield's face lit up. I continued with my train of thought, "I guess I could discuss the alienation of Steven Avery using Discourse theory?"

"Yes, do that," was her response.

I walked out of her office and my plan of action for my research was set.

The assignment was to compose a research article on a topic of our choice using the rhetorical theories and concepts that we had covered in class. Due to the scarcity of literature regarding my chosen topic, I felt as if I had free reign regarding the directions I could've gone with this paper. This was somewhat of a double-edged sword, as I would become entangled in a web of ideas and articles. I struggled with maintaining a clear path for my research. I found myself torn between writing an article that focused on more of the litigious aspects of Steven Avery's case, or writing about the sociological factors in the case. After discussing my dilemma with Professor Ringfield, I eventually settled on the latter. Professor Ringfield was a great factor in the development of my paper. When I had issues, or felt drowned in information with no direction to go, I would seek guidance from her and she would help me organize my thoughts. Narrowing the scope of my research was perhaps the most daunting aspect in the development of this article. Additionally, the composition of this article has led me to discover the truly recursive nature of research—frequently, I would have an idea to use certain articles for my secondary research artifacts and then look at Avery's case for primary exhibits and find that they were not applicable, then I would need to go back and search for more literature, thus resulting in an obliteration of all the artifacts I had initially planned on using for my secondary research articles. It was a fierce cycle, but ultimately a rewarding one.

In writing this article, I had discovered a great passion for research and all the challenges it presents. Additionally, writing this article has given me the opportunity to grow significantly as a writer. I learned that not all articles, especially research, can be composed in one sitting.

Researchers must be patient and approach the task with an open mind, as one can never truly know where the research may take them.