



James Estrin/The New York Times

First read:
Summarize each section. In each section, highlight one important piece of information; why is it important? Please be detailed and write in full sentences.

NEWS AND POLITICS
Central Park Five Case, Explained
 It's a must-know case.
By Lincoln Anthony Blades
 July 18, 2017

Second read: respond to the questions in each section in full sentences. Be thoughtful and specific in your responses.

On July 6, Netflix issued a [press release](#) announcing that Ava DuVernay, the director whose artistic eye has developed captivating films such as *Selma* and *13TH*, will write and direct a five-episode series detailing the story of New York's "Central Park Five." It is scheduled to be released in 2019.

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In order to appreciate the series, it's critical to understand the story of the Central Park Five. The group was made up of five boys of color — 15-year-old Antron McCray, 14-year-old Kevin Richardson, 15-year-old Yusef Salaam, 14-year-old Raymond Santana, and 16-year-old Korey Wise — whose lives were irreparably altered by law enforcement and the justice system. According to recollections [given to Ken Burns](#) for his documentary *The Central Park Five*, between 9 and 10 p.m. on the night of April 19, 1989, a group of [about 30 young teenagers](#) (mostly black and Latinx boys) met up in Central Park and engaged in various acts of mischief, like throwing rocks at cars. The misconduct escalated to assaulting random joggers, which eventually lead the police to aggressively arresting two of the young boys, Kevin and Raymond. They were taken to the Central Park precinct and held there for hours, until cops eventually contacted the their parents to say their children had been [arrested](#) for "unlawful assembly." The police informed the family members that the kids would be receiving a ticket to family court and then eventually sent home.

At 1:30 a.m. — while the boys were detained in the precinct — a 28-year-old white woman named Trisha Meili was discovered barely alive in Central Park, having been badly beaten and raped. She was taken to the hospital with a severe skull fracture, drained of most of her body fluids. As the officers in the Central Park precinct were preparing to release the boys, a detective investigating the assault on Meili called the precinct to inform the police to hold the boys longer, believing them to be suspects in her rape. The police [decided](#) that the mischief in the park was tied to Meili's rape, and believed they already had the boys responsible.

What is problematic about the way the police and investigators involve the families of the boys (all of whom were minors)?

By morning, New York's residents were apprised of Meili's attack through initial news reports. The boys were still detained, and were then ushered into separate rooms where police questioned them about Meili. Later that day, several more teenagers were

The term *coercion* means to persuade by the use of force and

	<p>rounded up for questioning, including Antron, Yusef, and Korey. In the <i>Central Park Five</i> documentary by Ken Burns, Raymond states that he informed the police that he was completely unaware of what happened to her, but the police responded by threatening him with a 25-years-to-life sentence in Rikers Island if they didn't admit to the crime. They underwent between <u>14 to 30 hours of non-stop interrogation</u> and were finally promised that if they identified others within the large group at the park as the perpetrators — boys that were there that night, who they didn't actually know — they'd be able to go home. The <u>detectives coached</u> the Central Park five on what to say, how to say it, and who to implicate.</p>	<p>threats. What about these confessions makes them coerced (there are multiple reasons)?</p>
	<p>Days later, the five boys were indicted for attempted murder, rape in the first degree, sodomy in the first degree, sexual abuse in the first degree, two counts of assault in the first degree, and riot in the first degree. Once the boys left the interrogation room, each and every one of them <u>reversed course on the lies they were goaded into telling</u> when speaking with legal counsel.</p> <p>Meili remained in a coma for 12 days. Her face was so badly disfigured from the beating that her friends could only ID her <u>by her ring</u>. The New York City press <u>picked up the story</u>, and the racial element of the case became galvanizing. At a time when New York City was experiencing high levels of <u>inner-city gang crime</u> — which was largely being used by conservative politicians and media outlets to propagate the need for tougher laws and increased police spending to solve the problems of black "inherent criminality" — the Central Park Five case provided ammunition for those narratives.</p> <p>...</p>	<p>How do you think this case would've been different if the boys had been given lawyers at the beginning, as is required by law?</p> <p>< What does it mean when it says the media and politicians used this case as "ammunition"?</p>
	<p>A trial was held in August 1990, and Yusef, Antron, and Raymond were all acquitted of attempted murder, but convicted of rape, assault, robbery, and riot. In a second trial that ended in December 1990, Kevin was convicted of attempted murder, rape, assault, and robbery, and Korey was convicted of sexual abuse, assault, and riot. They all faced charges ranging between five and 15 years in prison. While four of them ended up doing around <u>seven years</u> in prison, Korey, who was charged as an adult, was <u>sent to Rikers Island</u>.</p> <p>Twelve years after the five were convicted, Matias Reyes, a convicted murderer and serial rapist who was already serving a 33-years-to-life sentence, <u>confessed to prison officials</u> that he was <u>actually the one</u> who attacked Meili. After new DNA evidence corroborated his version of the events, New York County district attorney Robert M. Morgenthau vacated the convictions of the defendants, who all had already served their time and had been released.</p> <p>Once the charges were cleared, Kevin, Raymond, and Antron sued New York City for \$250 million, <u>citing</u> malicious prosecution, racial discrimination, and emotional distress, and eventually <u>reached a settlement</u> for \$40 million. Raymond Santana reacted to the settlement by telling <i>The New York Daily News</i>, "It was always about closure," he said. "So everyone can know without a shadow of a doubt that we're innocent." Three of the five <u>went on to receive their high school diplomas</u> this June.</p>	<p>How does this case connect to the unjust treatment Tom Robinson faces in the courtroom?</p>