

American Law and Society

Summer Assignment

Watch the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*. This movie is rated 'R'; if that is an issue for you, please email me at mfoley@achs.net and I will provide you with an alternative assignment.

Read a summation of the closing defense argument of any of the following cases (available online):

- Bill Haywood, 1907 (Clarence Darrow)
- Leopold and Loeb, 1924 (Darrow)
- Sacco and Vanzetti, 1921 (Fred Moore and Jeremiah McAnarney)
- O.J. Simpson, 1995 (Johnnie Cochran)

Using **only the knowledge available to the viewer at the beginning of the film** (prior to Andy's conviction), complete the following:

- A. Imagine you have been appointed as Andy's defense lawyer. What three pieces of advice would you give Andy for before and during the trial?
- B. As Andy's defense attorney, write a closing argument in which you argue before the jury as to why Andy should be found 'Not Guilty'.
- C. Imagine you are a member of the jury. Would you find Andy 'Guilty' or 'Not Guilty'? Why?

Enjoy the film.