

Jack the ripper argumentative essay



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1. Describe Law and Order in the late 19th century! Law and Order in the late 19th Century was at it's highest since the 18th Century and was very severe and very common among the poor due to poverty. The crimes were quite petty but was mainly due to their status. The highest group in society was the Monarch and followed by them was the Baron and then the Middle Class and followed by the Lords and the Upper Class.

These crimes happened to help feed the homeless and their families, they would have on average 20 people in a small house that had an attic and cellar. Even the working class would try to steal because of their poor wages. They would mainly try to steal food and drink to stay alive, these were the petty crimes but at the same time alot of more very serious crimes would be taking place such as burglary, robbery, murders and manslaughters. In the petty crimes the criminal would usually get away without punishment because of the policing status. There wasn't enough polic to deal with every crime. No-one wanted to be in the police force as they thought you would have to pay more taxes and they felt if the people who knew him and disliked him would go after his family to get at him.

The criminals who was caught were taken to a Church Court Trial first or another Court Trial then to Policing and then off to face their punishment which could be for them to be sent to Australia to be a slave or they might be fined or even at a very serious crime such as murder they could face execution. The poor would commit alot of crimes or until they got caught as they never had nothing to lose because they never had anything in the first place. The successes and failures of the 19th Century policing force was in their successes their appearance didn't look like soldiers so in doing so never

scared people as much, but when they were present they made their presence felt. Their failures were they didn't have enough man power to fight every crime committed.

They didn't have no police which meant no forensics and therefore they didn't have CID. 2. Why did the Ripper murders attract so much attention?

The Ripper murders were done over a period of two months. First to be murdered was to be Polly Nicholls, 42 and was drunk and was found with 5 teeth missing in August 1882.

Polly's throat had been cut back to the spine and later to discover two very deep stab wounds to Polly's vagina. The second was to be Annie Chapman, her body was discovered half a mile from Polly's. Her intestines were cut out and placed over her shoulder and her bladder had been cut out. A post mortem discovered that her uterus had been removed aswell by the murderer. There was to be a 3 week period where no murders were committed, then two murders took place. The third victim was to be Elizabeth Stride, a 44 year old prostitute and her vagina hadn't been touched, maybe because he was disturbed.

The Fourth victim but the second of the night was Catherine Eddows and had been killed as if she she was at a pig market and her throat was slit. The fifth victim would sadly fall to Mary Kelly. A 25 yr old Irish prostitute. She was 3 weeks behind on her rent. Mary was seen at Spittlefield Market.

People had seen her with two different men in the same day. Her rent collector discovered her body and it had been dis-enbowed with her organs on the side table. Mary Kelly's bedroom had been turned into a slaughter

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house. All 5 of these murders brought a lot of attention especially the press. There was between 14- 182 newspaper companies that had been founded due to the mass murders and as the bodies had been photographed, they created a sensationalism and as they were working class murders and mainly because he was the 1st ever serial killer. The press pounced when Polly Nicholls was murdered then Annie Chapman.

They were the people responsible for the name ' Jack The Ripper' that the press christened him with. As if the press didn't have exclusive coverage over the murders, they had to create false letters and signed them from ' Jack'. The press wanted to make it seem as if they were communicating with him. Due to the constant coverage of the Ripper murders there was a lot of hoax letters that the police had to deal with and they weren't sure if he would try to get in contact with the police and for his letter to be seen as another hoax. With all these hoax letters floating about, the police received certain tip-offs and with little policing available due to the numbers they couldn't follow every lead or who he was going to kill next if at all.

The Ripper murders attracted so much attention because ' Jack' was the 1st serial killer, even though the police tried to make the most of the descriptions given to police and they all said that he never had no possible accomplices, he only killed prostitutes but witnesses said he was possibly wearing dark clothing but wasn't sure because it was dark and there was no street lighting. He also didn't leave any trace of evidence at the crime scenes which leads me to think he had a very good knowing for the criminal evidence procedure and for what evidence the police would be looking for. There was a lack of witnesses due to street lighting and the places of where

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he met these ladies. With the murders taking place and there being no street lighting no-one knew what to do. The Ripper must have been very calm and collected every minute of every day. From the dead victims known to the police they were all prostitutes, and with 1 in 5 women being prostitutes in North London, quite a lot of women were at great risk of falling to be his next victim.

3. Why were the police unable to catch the Ripper? Jack was an extremely clever man who had every murder planned to the finest detail. As with every murder there was no witnesses or the lack of them. He knew the roads that the victims were worked on and therefore must have been watching them for a while because he could work more freely if there was no-one to see him. The police were stunned when they arrived at Polly's dead corpse, where Jack had stabbed her two times in her vagina.

But not all the bodies were disturbed in the same way. Annie Chapman's uterus had been cut out and removed and her intestines had been cut out and placed over her shoulder. Elizabeth Stride, Mary Kelly and Catherine Eddows' genitals had been touched but he may have been disturbed by someone. The police were back to square one because he didn't leave any evidence behind and even if he did it wouldn't be traced because there was no forensics. Scotland Yard was surprised that the killer didn't leave any evidence behind at any of the crime scenes. This killer had a great knowledge of the police justice system and in doing so left the police clueless.

The press made it harder because they made it their business to mis-inform the public on the murders published because they would invent fake letters that was apparently by Jack and try to give the police help. The reason's why the police weren't able to catch Jack The Ripper was mainly due to evidence and witnesses. There wasn't that many witnesses but they didn't know what the Ripper looked like because there was no street lights and it was dark and they didn't know what he was wearing because it looked dark but they wasn't certain, and they reckon her possibly worked alone of a night. Also, with these false letters that Jack The Ripper apparently had written said that he was giving the police endless chances to catch him and set a place and time and date when he would be there so they could have a chance of capturing him. These meetings required as many police as possible because he was considered extremely dangerous and even if it was a fake meeting it would waste alot of precious policing time and what little staff they had to man these operations.