#### **FABRICATING EVIDENCE**

In real trials, lawyers will present proof of a client's guilt or innocence. This is called *evidence*. Many different things can be considered an "exhibit"; to make your essay more convincing, you will create your own sample evidence. "Creating" evidence is illegal in a real trial, but since "The Tell-tale Heart" is a fictional story, we will create something fictional of our own! You MAY work with other classmates on this project, but you must EACH submit your own project to contribute to your own grade.

Your evidence can depict an actual event from the story, such as...

- 1) The killer sneaking into the old man's room each night
- 2) The actual murder
- 3) The concealment of the body (no fake blood allowed)
- 4) The confession to the police

Your evidence can also show an event that was not featured in Poe's original story (like a deleted scene), such as...

- 1) When the killer first moved in with the old man/became obsessed with the eye
- 2) When the killer planned how he would commit the murder/conceal the body
- 3) What happened to the killer during/after his arrest
- 4) What happened with the neighbors or police officers before/during/after the murder

Make sure your evidence does not directly contradict Edgar Allan Poe's original version. (For example: You cannot show the killer burning the body, because we know he chopped it up and buried it)

# Some samples of "Fabricated Evidence"

## -Visual Evidence

Using either your artistic talent or photography skills, create a photograph of the "crime scene" from the story. Your picture should either make the killer appear sane or insane. Your picture must be at least the size of a full-sheet of paper (8 ½ by 5 ½), although it can be bigger. It should be fully colored (you may print out a black-and-white image and color it in by hand). *Include a one paragraph (five lengthy sentences) description of the drawing that can be read to the jury to help them understand the visual and convince them your side is right.* This project will be graded on neatness, effort, and detail. Make sure you drawing looks like it could be a picture (no blank backgrounds, stick figures, hastily colored sections, etc)

## -Audio Evidence

Using an audio recording, create a sworn testimony from a character in the story, describing an event that took place in or around the apartment, from their perspective. You, or a volunteer, should read your script using a "special voice" to make you sound like the character. You may format this evidence like an interview/interrogation, or you can have the character speak directly to the listener. It must be at least a minute long, and include a text version of the evidence, printed out. Remember, you goal is to make the killer appear either sane or insane.

#### -Model Evidence

Using a shoebox or other container, create a 3D model of the "crime scene." Your diorama should be detailed and properly to scale (e.g.: if you make a model bed, make sure it could fit through the model door). Include a one paragraph (five lengthy sentences) description of the model that can be read to the jury to help them understand the visual and convince them your side is right. Be sure your model can be used to demonstrate that the killer either planned this murder carefully or was a victim of his own insanity. If your model is just a little apartment, it will not receive full credit, no matter how well it is made.

## -Video Evidence

Using a video recording, create a testimony or interview from one of the characters in the story (see audio evidence), surveillance footage of an event that occurred in/around the apartments, or a dramatic recreation of the events from the story. Remember, your evidence should emphasize his sanity or insanity. Do NOT just act out the scenes form the story. We *know* he killed the old man, but was he sane or insane?

If you have a different idea for what could be considered evidence, make sure it gets approved by Mr. Strauss first.

- 1) My idea for this project is to...
- 2) The things I will need to create this piece of evidence are...
- 3) To complete this part of the project, I think it will take this long...