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Narrative's Role in the Retelling of True Crime Cases

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Narrative's Role in the Retelling of True Crime Cases

Every story has a beginning, a middle, and an end – a narrative. My research investigates the role of narrative in the retelling of true crime cases. In particular, I examine narrative's role in the case of Atif Rafay and Sebastian Burns, two young males from Vancouver who were convicted of murdering the Rafay family in 1994. I examine the function of narrative in this case through two contrasting perspectives: that of the reporters and editors writing for the Vancouver Sun newspaper, and the perspective of the producers of the timely Netflix documentary series, "The Confession Tapes." Both outlets employ starkly different approaches in retelling the details of the Burns-Rafay case to the public. My goal is to illuminate the ways in which the structure of these narratives may have had real-life effects for the accused in the wider system of justice.

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