

Correctional Systems and Practices
2313-71
Fall of 2020

Course Project

Kalief Browder Classification

In this activity, students will describe and assess the classification of Kalief Browder who was held on Rikers Island after being arrested for robbery.

Students may learn about the case from a variety of sources:

1. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/kalief-browder-1993-2015>
2. <https://www.netflix.com/title/80187052>
3. <https://www.cnn.com/2015/06/07/us/kalief-browder-dead/index.html>
4. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/09/nyregion/kalief-browder-held-at-rikers-island-for-3-years-without-trial-commits-suicide.html>

Students are to choose one of these sources (or another approved source discussing the case) and write a response paper.

The response paper should include the following information:

- Describe the case and demographic history of Kalief Browder.
- Highlight the circumstances that led to his detention at Rikers despite not having appeared at a trial or been found guilty.
- Summarize the housing situation during his stay at Rikers.
- Reaction to the outcome of this case.

Prompts for discussion could include:

- What actions did the correctional system take to protect Kalief Browder when he was processed through Rikers Island, an adult jail system?
- How should have the correctional system handled Kalief Browder's case as a juvenile?
- What type of custody level would could have resulted in a different outcome in this case?

Course Project will open on October 12, 2020

Course Project is due on November 29, 2020 at 8:00 pm.

