Salutation? Introduction?

We think that the case of Walter McMillian is filled with contradictions, false testimonies, and suspicious decisions. As investigators, our goal is to uncover the truth behind this wrongful conviction. Key witnesses, like Ralph Myers and Bill Hooks, changed their stories under questionable circumstances, receiving reduced sentences and dropped charges in return. Sheriff Thomas Tate appears to have played a central role in orchestrating these false accusations, motivated by political gain and pressure from the white community. Our job is to dig beneath the surface, analyze the motives and actions of those involved, and determine who truly holds responsibility for the injustice done to McMillian. The real question is: was this a search for justice, or a cover-up to protect powerful interests?

Testimony (which one, the testimony? A testimony?) is inconsistent mainly on time and place where Walter McMillian was. On the one hand, Ralph Myer and Bill Hooks claim that he was at the dry cleaners between 9:00 and 9:15, associating him with the murder without having seen him shoot directly. On the other hand, Sharon Davis and Minnie Jackson assure (assured) that he was at the church fish fry from 8:30 am and all morning surrounded by many people, making it impossible for him to be present at the crime scene at the time indicated by the prosecution. The inconsistency between these testimonies is glaring. McMillian could not be in two places at the same time. Furthermore, the alibi is based on several independent witnesses, while the charges are made by witnesses whose credibility is questionable, notably Myer, who later admitted to having lied. This greatly weakens the prosecution’s version and reinforces the assumption of miscarriage (failure) of justice.

On top of that, while we already had doubts regarding McMillian’s guilt, we believe too that other people made him guilty for their personal interests. Indeed, case dismissal and sentence reviewing occurred after those witnesses testified. For instance, Myer’s criminal record shows that he was awaiting a trial for the death penalty for “Murder suspicion” but, after his testimony against McMillian, on November 10th, his sentence decreased. Then regarding Hook, on November 16th the Court dismissed him of the charges in a prior robbery’s case following its testimony on November 15th. (Those witnesses could have testified in their own interest.) You already said that in a more concise way before, then it shouldn’t be said again. During your synthesis try not to repeat too many times the same information.

We believe that all of these discrepancies have one common point, they are all linked to sheriff Tate. Sheriff Thomas Tate was elected in October 1986, he promised in his campaign that he would help (make) the city safe and would ease the growing anxiety of the white community. The white community off the city felt more in danger because of the increasing number of black people in town. It seems like to please the people that elected him sheriff Tate forced Bill Hooks and Ralph Myers to lie in their testimony in order to accuse McMillian. In exchange of their false testimony he reduced Myers' death sentence to 30 years in prison and Hooks' trial was canceled.

To finish, it seems that Sheriff Tate's own interests led to the arrest of Darnel Houston. In fact, it looks like Houston did his first testimony under pressure to cover Hook. However, when he decided to tell the truth – Hook never stopped working to see what was happening and so he never saw McMillian going out of the establishment, which found him not guilty – Tate arrested him for lying under oath on November 22th. We do believe that this arrest has the goal to serve Sheriff Tate’s interests instead of justice.

The conflicting testimony in this case raises serious doubts about Walter McMillian's guilt. The chronology presented by the prosecution is based on witness statements of dubious credibility, while Walter McMillian's alibi is supported by multiple independent accounts. It is difficult to ignore the possibility that these accusations have been influenced by personal interests, particularly when key witnesses have benefited from reduced sentences or dismissals after testifying against him. In addition, repeated links with Sheriff Tate suggest that political motives may have played a part in shaping the narrative. Was McMillian really convicted on the basis of evidence, or was he used as a scapegoat to serve the ambitions of those in power? Inconsistencies, unusual agreements and the potential influence of the authorities lead us to wonder whether justice was always the true objective, or whether the truth was buried to protect reputations and ensure control.

What do you want the judge to do then? What is the thing that you want or need after your pleading?