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Instructor's Name

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JFK Assassination

The identity of the person or persons who shot President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, has been a long, difficult mystery about which there are many theories and questions. Although many people believe the assassination of John F. Kennedy was performed only by Lee Harvey Oswald, crime scene evidence, autopsy reports, and eyewitness testimonies prove more than one person shot John F. Kennedy.

First of all, crime scene evidence proves Lee Harvey Oswald was not alone in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. According to Ronald Grier, former director of the Crime Scene Investigation Department in Dallas, Texas, three rifle shells were found at the scene; however, one of the three shells was fired from a different location. "This information," said Grier, "can be confirmed by reconstructing the scene of the crime using a model of a human in the backseat of a similar car and forming the exact angles of the gunshot wounds that President Kennedy suffered." In addition to rifle shells, Gary Green, captain of the Dallas Police Department in 1963, said gunshot residue was found behind a fence on the "grassy knoll" and on a third-story windowsill of the Texas School Book Depository. Gun specialist Anna Hadder said the residues found were from two different types of rifles: the Mannlicher-Carcano and the Gutterfuel-423.

Secondly, autopsy reports show more than one person was involved in the shooting of President Kennedy. Dr. Mark Young, one of the pathologists who analyzed Kennedy's body,

said two of the wounds were in the back of the President's head at about 120-degree angles. Dr. Harry Underlain, the director of the Dallas County Hospital, said another wound was found in the front of the President's head, and it was at an angle of about ninety degrees. These angles, according to Officer Kyle Smith, were concurrent to angles that would be formed from the motorcade to the window of the depository and to the grassy knoll, respectively.

Finally, eyewitness testimonies support the double-shooter theory in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Abraham Zapruder witnessed the assassination through the lens of his video camera. He said the video showed two shots that hit Kennedy from behind, and they moved him forward and left; and another shot hit Kennedy from the front, and it moved him backward and left. Another witness, Jane Bull, was standing only a few feet from the motorcade in which Kennedy rode. "I heard two shots come from the direction of the depository," Jane commented. Another man, Dennis Grouper, said he saw a bullet hit President Kennedy in the front right side of his head. "The shot came from the direction of that little hill over there," said Grouper, who was referring to the grassy knoll.

Crime scene evidence, autopsy reports, and eyewitness testimonies prove at least two people were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Clearly, Lee Harvey Oswald was not alone.