

Your Honor, permission to move freely about the courtroom during the closing argument.

**“Valdez is a jerk. And he got what he deserved!”** said **Jamie Hayes** during her interrogation with Detective Thomas.

This evening the prosecution has proven, **beyond a reasonable doubt**, that Jamie Hayes is **responsible** for the murder of Lee Valdez on the fateful night of May 15th. In depth examinations of both the prosecution and defense witnesses point to the fact that Jamie Hayes, ultimately succumbed to the **mob mentality of the track team**. Falling victim to this form of manipulation, Hayes became a desperate and rash person whose **intent** to harm Lee Valdez clearly depicted her **malice aforethought**. In order to convict the defendant for such a crime, the prosecution had to prove means, motive, and opportunity. It is absolutely clear that Hayes had both the means and the opportunity, respectively, the baseball bat and the night in question. What remains, is the motive. The question we are asking today is: what really caused Jamie to kill Lee Valdez?

Was it Valdez himself? To start, Lou Williams directed our attention to Lee Valdez’s commitment to the his job and his duty to protect the individuals around him. Moreover, Sam Spencer highlighted Valdez’s good nature; stating he was one the most **loyal and passionate** people she had ever worked with. Lee Valdez was a **responsible, spirited** security guard who only wanted to keep the neighborhood safe, that’s all he ever intended. For Hayes to act in defense of Casey, Valdez would have had to been purposefully attacking Casey, but this just isn’t the case, he was only following protocol. Without a doubt, Lee Valdez would never purposefully attack anyone, therefore, it is unwarranted to assume he would do so on the night of May 15th. However, not everyone on campus was as well intentioned as Valdez. The track team had it out for the security guard: **menacing him and continually causing havoc through their parties**.

Well, was it the track team, then? Your honor, Casey Barns’ grudge against Valdez and lack of respect for authority permeated throughout the track team. The most prominent example of this behavior, Alex Rosales, **even stated** that the track team was would always follow Casey Barns’ demands. Soon, **the ringleader of this chaos**, who orchestrated the track team to hate Valdez, soon found himself/herself a **new puppet to follow his demands**:

**Jamie Hayes.** Most notably, Jamie even stated, he/she didn't want to get on Barns' bad list. But why was this? Well, your honor, Jamie had a problem, she needed to have housing under the track team because she couldn't afford another space. It is evident that Barns' clear manipulation extended to all aspects of the track team's lives.

So, was it Jamie's view of Police Authority? What started out as an alleged dislike of violence precipitated into something dangerous. In Terry Thomas's investigation, we saw **as an administrator of CCU** against Police Brutality account, Jamie tweeted "**Law Enforcement has gone too far. We need to stand up and fight,**" indicating his/her distinct negative view of police. Additionally, forensic handwriting specialist Dakota Kim verified that the note sent to CCU security, only 2 days after the tweet, that stated, "**Valdez, watch out! We know you want us out, and we are gonna stand up and fight**" was **written by Jamie Hayes.** Hayes was a pawn of Barns' regime of authority hating hotheads and subsequently began to share the same sentiment.

Your Honor, the answers to all of these questions is yes. Because of Lee Valdez's rules, the track team had it out for him, as a result manipulating Hayes' perception of authority. It was a combination of all these aspects that truly pushed Jamie over the edge on May 15th.

Examining the events that occurred that night, it's hard to really tell what happened besides a brutal blow to the head via baseball bat. Despite any visible marks or bruises, Barns claimed that Valdez actually choked her. In fact, even with a rowdy college party going on Hayes could still clearly hear the noises Barns. Further, at a distance of 60 yards away, Hayes identified it was Valdez choking Casey. And what did she do? **Instead of simply pushing Valdez off... she grabbed a lethal weapon.** And that, your Honor, that's when the means, motive and opportunity all lined up. With a quick **swing of the bat,** Jamie had **won his/her fight** with authority while simultaneously making sure he/she stayed off **Casey's bad list** and ensuring his/her place within the track team's housing.

That's when she won her fight against authority. And that's also when we lost Lee Valdez. The fact of the matter is, **Lee Valdez is gone** and he will **never** be coming back. **We know that.** All because of the actions of a this hot head sitting before the court

today.

**For these reasons, the prosecution ardently implores the court to find Jamie Hayes guilty on the counts of second degree murder or alternatively voluntary manslaughter and rule in favor of the prosecution.**