**1.2 An essay in a magazine or newspaper**

You are no working as a prosecutor. In a newspaper or magazine, you see a letter published, written by a lawyer. In this letter, the validity of fingerprints is marked as dubious. You are very engaged in this subject and you want to write a reply on this letter.

* Read the letter.
* Find information from different sources to have your arguments to reply to this letter.
* You can ask your teacher to help you collect different sources.
* Write an essay, giving a reaction on the letter. Focus on the use of fingerprints in general, you can decide for yourself if you also want to react on this specific case.
* Be sure to address all the arguments that the lawyer gives in his letter.

*The letter as it was printed in the newspaper:*

*In two weeks time, the appeal will take place for the trial in the so called taxi-murder. In the original trial, a suspect was convicted only on the basis of fingerprints. There are no witnesses, there is no confession, there is no real evidence, there are only the so called fingerprints. The scientific basis for the use of fingerprints is very limited. Different people can have the same fingerprints, while collecting the fingerprints the police can make mistakes, in the time between crime and trial the fingerprints can change. As a whole, the use of fingerprints as basis for ‘guilty’ or ‘not guilty’ is very doubtful. However, the judge seems to be deaf for this argument. I hope that the judge responsible for the appeal will use his common sense. If not, a person that is not guilty will go in jail for a long time. That would be a big shame, not only for this judge but also for the whole legal system and every man and woman in this country.*

*Lou Tiger, Lawyer*