



INTEGRATED
CURRICULUM UNIT
ON FORENSICS

Crime Scene Investigation

ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career

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Teachers at the following California high schools participated in various aspects of this pilot work:

- Reseda High School, Los Angeles Unified School District
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A large number of ConnectEd curriculum writers worked on the various versions of this curriculum. The original team included Pier Sun Ho, Khanh Bui, Aaron Malloy, and Charles Stephen. Adaptation from health science to law and law enforcement was accomplished by Khanh Bui, Jill Hagan, and Theresa Esparrago Lieu.

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Crime Scene Investigation

UNIT OVERVIEW

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Unit Summary

In this unit, students take on the role of crime scene investigators to solve a murder that has occurred at the school. They will integrate math, science, and language arts into the study of forensic science and associated legal careers such as district attorneys, law enforcement, pathology, forensic science, and medical examination.

In Subunit 1, students are introduced to the unit and the task of crime scene investigation. They will read and analyze a classic mystery, *The Blue Carbuncle*. Students will also learn about the techniques of various branches of forensic science and how advances in biotechnology have helped to solve crimes.

In Subunit 2, students will learn and apply the various techniques used during a crime scene investigation, including what types of evidence to collect and how that evidence can be used to deduce information about the crime and/or perpetrator. In this unit, students will learn such investigative strategies as measuring stride length from footprints left at the scene to calculate height; using the victim's temperature to estimate the time of death; and collecting blood and other DNA samples from the scene in order to conduct a variety of biological tests—including blood typing and DNA fingerprinting that can match a suspect to the crime. In English Language Arts, students will interview the witnesses and write a narrative police report using the active voice.

In Subunit 3, students examine the results of forensic science. In World History, they examine how forensic science has been used not only to solve individual crimes, but also to shed light on crimes against humanity. In English Language Arts, students interview will marshal the evidence from their own investigations into a case against the primary suspect. Students will write up their arguments, as well as present them orally.

Culminating Event

The culminating assessment will be a presentation to the supervising police lieutenant of the written report, and an oral report with a multimedia PowerPoint of the evidence. The goal is to authentically persuade the supervising lieutenant of the guilty suspect, and the charges to be brought against the suspect. Students summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the case and the evidence.

Key Questions/Issues

- What tales can dead men tell? What can you learn about a crime by examining the victim? (Foundations of Law, Biology, Algebra, Geometry)
- What kinds of clues and evidence can be gleaned from a crime scene? What types of evidence are left behind? (Foundations of Law)
- What factors and evidence should be used to determine a person's guilt? Is some evidence better or worse than others? (Foundations of Law, English Language Arts)
- Should circumstantial evidence play a role? Why or why not? (English Language Arts, Foundations of Law, World History)
- Why take the temperature of a dead body? (Algebra II)
- How have advances in DNA technology helped to ensure justice is being served? (Biology)
- Should juries rely solely on DNA evidence in determining the guilt of accused individuals in capital murder cases? How reliable is DNA evidence? (English Language Arts, Foundations of Law)

Learning Scenario to Kick Off the Unit

A body has been found in the library office with a knife stuck in her chest. A group of three students found the body this morning. The deceased was on her back when discovered, and the room was in a little bit of disarray, chairs turned over and desks shoved out of place. Bloody footprints and the murder weapon were left at the scene!

Everyone in school is shocked and wondering what happened. When the police arrive, the crime scene investigators go to take a look at the scene. What will the police be doing to solve the crime and to ensure that they have the right perpetrator?

Law and Education Partner Roles

- Forensic law enforcement specialists from the local community can be invited to speak to students in greater depth about their job and training and can set up the CSI unit.
- Attorneys or the district attorney can come to speak to students about criminal law.
- Law enforcement officers and detectives can speak about interviewing techniques and interrogation.

Subunits and Major Topics (across academic and technical subject areas)		
Subunit 1 <i>Murder Most Foul</i>	Subunit 2 <i>Crime Scene Investigations</i>	Subunit 3 <i>Convincing the Jury</i>
FOUNDATIONS IN LAW * ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS* ALGEBRA I * ALGEBRA II * BIOLOGY * GEOMETRY	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS * WORLD HISTORY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers in forensic science and criminal law • Techniques of forensic science • Literary analysis including identifying or inferring the central idea, purpose, or theme and identifying literary devices and techniques, particularly those associated with mysteries • Reasoning and problem solving • Differentiating between facts and opinions • Evidence protection: secure crime scene, chain of custody • Evidence collection: latent prints, blood, physical evidence • Evidence preparation: photographs, scaled diagrams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratios and proportions • Linear equations • Graphing the equation of a circle • Deriving from the distance formula • Logarithmic equations–Newton’s Law of Cooling • DNA structure and purpose • Blood typing • DNA fingerprinting • Gel electrophoresis • Narrative report writing, including technical field notes, police report writing and using active voice • Interviewing • Differentiating between fact and opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity • Aftermath of World War II and the Nuremberg Trials • Persuasive composition writing with structured arguments • Delivery of persuasive arguments using rhetorical devices to support assertions • Narrative report writing, including technical field notes and police report writing and using active voice

Murder Most Foul

SUBUNIT 1 OVERVIEW

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in arriving at verdicts in criminal cases?

Subunit Goals

Subunit 1 introduces the topic of forensic science. In this subunit, students learn about the range of fields within forensic science and the basic investigatory techniques used in a criminal investigation. Students also discuss reasoning from evidence in literature, in the form of a classic mystery story, *The Blue Carbuncle* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In Lesson 1.3, students are taken to a “crime scene” within the school and asked to investigate. Students will collect evidence from the scene following the guidelines they have studied. They then analyze the collected evidence in Subunit 2.

Subunit Key Questions

- How are the procedures used to collect evidence from violent crime scenes similar to and different from what we see on television? (Foundations of Law)
- How are criminal investigations portrayed in literature? Is Sherlock Holmes really a great detective? Can you find errors in the conclusions he draws from evidence? (English Language Arts)
- What kinds of evidence can be left at a crime scene, and what can be learned? (Foundations of Law/Biology)
- What are early examples of forensic investigation? How has forensic science advanced in recent years? What techniques have been developed and which ones are falling out of use? (Foundations of Law/Biology)

Lesson Summaries

Lesson	Subject	Description	Class Sessions
1.1	Foundations of Law	<i>Introduction to Forensic Investigations</i> Students are introduced to the field of forensic science. They are given a brief overview of the history of forensics and learn the basic procedures followed in a modern murder investigation. Students also use the Internet to discover the many branches of forensic science.	1
1.2	English Language Arts	<i>You Be the Detective: Sherlock Holmes and Deductive Reasoning</i> Students discuss the characteristics of the mystery genre and relate their discussion to the short story, <i>The Blue Carbuncle</i> . Following a close read of the story, students identify examples of faulty reasoning used by the main character, Sherlock Holmes.	1
1.3	Foundations of Law/Biology	<i>Murder in the Classroom</i> A murder is discovered in the classroom, and students are taken to investigate the scene. Students observe the crime scene and collect physical evidence for analysis in later lessons.	1

Subunit 1—Murder Most Foul

Introduction to Forensic Investigations

LESSON 1.1

Foundations of Law

Time

60 minutes

Materials

Equipment

- “Crime-Scene Search,” FBI *Handbook of Forensic Services* (<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/handbook/forensics.pdf>)
- Forensic Science Subdivisions handout
- Computer lab

Resources

- *Forensic Science Timeline* (<http://www.forensicsdna.com/Timeline020702.pdf>)
- *Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for Law Enforcement* (<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/backissu/april2000/twgcsi.pdf>)

Prior Student Learning

Ask students to view an episode of a crime investigation TV program and review the *Forensic Science Timeline* before beginning the lesson.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Describe the range of work in forensic science, including careers that use forensic science techniques.
- Identify major procedures used in conducting a crime scene investigation and explain the importance of following procedures.
- Demonstrate multiple ways to collect forensic evidence while preserving the crime scene.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

Many believe that TV shows such as *Law & Order* and *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* have produced something called the “CSI effect.” That is, victims of crimes, jurors, and members of the general public have heightened expectations about what can be revealed from the evidence that is presented in trials. Some argue that this phenomenon is responsible for the increased use of forensic evidence in criminal cases.

Modern advances in forensic science (forensics) have transformed previously unusable clues into highly reliable evidence. Today, many “cold cases” from the past aren’t that cold anymore. For instance, in 1996, using advances in DNA technology, California created a DNA database of criminal offenders. They reopened cold cases to see whether this DNA evidence would help resolve the cases. Results have been promising. For example, the offender database linked Gerald Parker, a man already serving a prison sentence for rape, to a 17-year-old murder case. Confronted with the evidence, Parker not only confessed to that crime, but also to five other murders.

Forensic scientists have not only solved cold cases, but also reopened “solved” cases. The Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal clinic reports that 205 people have been exonerated due to DNA evidence. In the case of Gerald Parker, after his confessions, another man (the husband of one of Parker’s victims) was freed after serving 16 years in prison for the wrongful conviction in the assault of his pregnant wife and murder of her unborn fetus, which Parker committed.

A Brief History

DNA evidence is just one tool in forensic scientists' toolbox. The first written record of forensic science can be traced back to ancient China in a book written in 1248 titled "Xi Yuan Ji Lu" (translated as *Collected Cases of Injustice Rectified*) by Song Ci. This book describes the investigation of a person murdered with a sickle (a cutting tool). All suspects were told to bring their sickles to a central location, where it was noticed that flies were attracted to one particular sickle, presumably by the smell of blood; this led to a confession by the owner of that sickle.

Archimedes (287BC–212 BC), a Greek mathematician, is often credited as the "father" of forensics due to reportedly being asked to determine the purity of a gold crown without melting or destroying it. While taking a bath, he noticed that his body always displaced a certain amount of water. Archimedes recognized that a supposed pure gold crown must not only weigh the same as an authenticated one, but also displace the same amount of water as an equal weight of pure gold.

Fingerprints were recognized in the prehistoric era and became an identifier in criminal cases in the late 19th century. The earliest documented cases of forensic ballistics, toxicology, pathology, and biology also occurred in the 19th century. Today, DNA evidence has established a new standard—one can only wonder what the future will hold. In 1913, the polygraph examination (lie detector test), which measures physiological responses (blood pressure, perspiration, pulse, and so on) to verbal statements, was created; it's routinely used by law enforcement officials though test results are not admissible in many courts. Now, a new lie detection technology has been created called *Brain Fingerprinting*. It reportedly measures the presence of indicators of memory in a person's brain, and it has already been used in court cases.

Lesson Development

Direct instruction

"Investigators should approach the crime scene investigation as if it will be their only opportunity to preserve and recover these physical clues," according to the manual *Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for Law Enforcement*. In this class, students should be introduced to the basic protocol for conducting forensic science investigations and the importance of following it.

Explain to students that the goal of most crime scene investigations is to answer some or all of the following questions:

- **Who** is the perpetrator, and **who** is the victim?
- **What** happened, **when**, and **why**?
- **How** did the crime happen?
- **Where** did it happen (the location of the body is not always at the primary crime scene)?
- **What** is the evidence?

Ask students what types of evidence would be found at a crime scene in which a victim was murdered with a knife. Students may mention fingerprints, the murder weapon, DNA evidence, and so on. Write their responses on the board. Inform students that a brief examination of the scene will often provide a general theory of what occurred, while forensics often reveals hidden clues. Body temperatures can be

used to approximate the time of death, as well as any insect found in or on the body (the stage of development of fly larvae can also indicate the time of death). If there is blood, DNA can be analyzed. Also, hand or shoe prints can be analyzed to provide the approximate height and stride of the suspect. Both time of death and the suspect's stride can be used to approximate a radius that the suspect must be in. Investigators use many types of clues together to narrow down the potential pool of suspects.

Ask students what is the best way to find this evidence. If officers rush to the scene to collect the murder weapon, it's possible that they may destroy other evidence such as footprints. Explain to students that crime scene investigators often work in teams and follow an established procedure.

Explain the following specialized set of protocols for a crime scene investigation:

1. **APPROACHING**—Carefully observe persons, odors, and other elements. Exercise extreme safety.
2. **CONFIRM OR DISCONFIRM DEATH**—Locate and view the body, noting the success, failure, or futility of resuscitative efforts.
3. **PRESERVING**—Establish perimeters. Set up command posts. Determine the suspect's point of entry and egress and your own.
4. **PROCESSING**—Photograph scene, body, and face. Place and photograph markers. Photograph body. Sketch and search the scene. Examine evidence in detail. Take notes. Tag and bag. Describe and document. When you do this, you may want to bring in a police officer or forensic specialist to explain this portion.
5. **IDENTIFY THE VICTIM**—Estimate cause, manner, and time of death. Obtain exemplars and controls. Look for ID. Look for drag marks. Note discrepancies in mortis and body temperature.
6. **NOTIFY NEXT OF KIN** (and be prepared to assist the family through an autopsy and provide financial advice).
7. **DEVELOP THEORY OF MOTIVE**—Rely upon evidence, knowledge of victim's activities, and appearance of victim's clothing. See if any documents were written by or sent to victim recently. Determine the pre-scene activity and health status (physical and mental) of the victim.
8. **SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**—Do background and history checks (marital, family, sexual, employment, financial, daily routine, friends, religion, education, and criminal history). Obtain leads from people who knew the victim. Challenge discrepancies in witness' knowledge of the victim or lack of corroboration with other witnesses. Order warrants on suspects.
9. **QUESTIONING**—Question all suspects. Make use of evidence during questioning. Use information withheld from the public about the case to obtain a confession. Destroy alibis.

SOURCE: “An Introduction to Crime Scene Analysis”

(<http://faculty.ncwc.edu/TOConnor/315/315lect04.htm>)

(This website also provides many additional Internet resources about crime scene investigations.)

Group Work

Assemble students into groups of four. Have them print the seven-page document “Crime-Scene Search” from the FBI’s *Handbook of Forensic Sciences* at

<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/handbook/forensics.pdf>. [Print out pages 171-184](#). Each student group will include a

- Person in charge (team leader)
- Photographer
- Sketch preparer
- Evidence recorder

Using the “FBI Crime-Scene Search” information as a reference, each student should write a one-half to one-page summary of the duties they would perform in their assigned role at a crime scene investigation. They should also describe how their duties combined with those of other students in their group would contribute to the overall quality and effectiveness of the investigation.

At the conclusion of this assignment, pass out the Forensic Science Subdivisions handout and provide students with Internet access to fill in the chart (students can also work in groups). Explain that many other fields of forensics are not included on the list and that they should list any additional subdivisions.

Lesson Closure

Ask students if they understand why it is important to follow protocol and conduct careful investigations or if they know of any court cases where the forensic evidence collected was tainted or discredited due to improper investigative procedures. Some students may mention the O.J. Simpson murder trial in which he was acquitted of criminal liability but found liable for the crime in a civil court.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Most students will probably link forensics with crime due to popular TV shows. Yet, forensic science is any science used in the courts, the justice system, or in public investigations, and these investigative methods can be used in many situations beyond criminal cases.

Students should understand that crime scene investigations usually require a team of forensic scientists who do most of their work in laboratories because this work requires knowledge of several scientific disciplines: often one person lacks the necessary educational background and expertise to conduct the entire investigation alone. This scenario is illustrated well on popular TV shows. For example, a ballistics expert may be a physicist and a forensic pathologist will be a medical doctor, while the scientist analyzing blood samples may be a chemist or biologist.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Summary of duties

Forensic science subdivisions handout

Variations and Extensions

A law enforcement officer or forensic scientist can speak to the class about crime scene investigation and provide details about occupations in Forensics.

Students can be selected to present their summaries to the class (one student can be selected from each position) to ensure their overall understanding of the investigative process.

NATIONAL

None available at this time.

State Career Technical Standards

CALIFORNIA

Standards for Legal and Government Services Pathway

- B4.0 Students understand methods to acquire, analyze, and disseminate information and interpret laws to facilitate clear and positive communication:
- B4.1 Understand specialized investigative techniques, devices, and equipment to enhance investigation regarding compliance with laws and regulations.
- B9.0 Students understand the foundation of national and state law and the important elements of trial procedures.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Forensic Science Subdivisions

Use information from the FBI's *Handbook of Forensic Services* to fill in the following chart.

FORENSIC FIELD	DEFINITION (all related to legal issues)	EXAMPLES (general or specific application)
Forensic Accounting		
Forensic Anthropology		
Forensic Ballistics		
Forensic Biology		
Forensic Dentistry		
Forensic Document Examination		
Forensic Engineering		
Forensic Entomology		
Forensic Pathology		
Forensic Psychology		
Forensic Toxicology		

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Forensic Science Subdivisions (answer key)

Use information from the FBI's *Handbook of Forensic Services* to fill in the following chart.

FORENSIC FIELD	DEFINITION (all related to legal issues)	EXAMPLES (general or specific application)
<i>Forensic Accounting</i>	<i>Uses accounting, auditing, and investigative skills</i>	<i>Enron accounting scandal, Martha Stewart insider trading case</i>
<i>Forensic Anthropology</i>	<i>Analyzes skeletal remains</i>	<i>Mass graves, determine lifestyle, gender, cause of death</i>
<i>Forensic Ballistics</i>	<i>Examines firearms, bullets, and other projectiles</i>	<i>JFK and MLK assassination bullet identity and trajectory</i>
<i>Forensic Biology</i>	<i>Analyzes results from serological, DNA, and other bodily fluid tests</i>	<i>DNA and blood typing, O.J. Simpson murder trial</i>
<i>Forensic Dentistry</i>	<i>Examines dental evidence</i>	<i>Determine age or identify victim or suspect through dental records</i>
<i>Forensic Document Examination</i>	<i>Examines printed and written material for dating and authenticity</i>	<i>Identify forgeries</i>
<i>Forensic Engineering</i>	<i>Examines products, materials, components, and structures</i>	<i>Determine the cause of plane crash or bridge collapse</i>
<i>Forensic Entomology</i>	<i>Analyzes insect evidence</i>	<i>Use insects to determine the time of death</i>
<i>Forensic Pathology</i>	<i>Uses medical knowledge to examine damage from disease or injury</i>	<i>Identify the fatal wound or injury</i>
<i>Forensic Psychology</i>	<i>Applies psychology to issues</i>	<i>Provide criminal profile or determine suspect confidence</i>
<i>Forensic Toxicology</i>	<i>Uses chemistry and pharmacology to perform examinations for drugs and poisons</i>	<i>Determine if drugs or poison were used, suspected DUI fatality</i>

Subunit 1—Murder Most Foul

You Be the Detective: Sherlock Holmes and Deductive Reasoning

LESSON 1.2

English Language Arts

Time
45 minutes

Materials

- *The Blue Carbuncle* by Arthur Conan Doyle
- Faulty Reasoning handout (teacher answers)
- *The Red Headed League* by Arthur Conan Doyle
- *The Speckled Band* by Arthur Conan Doyle

Prior Student Learning

Assign students to read *The Blue Carbuncle* before beginning the lesson.

Students should have experience in the close reading of short stories.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Draw inferences from evidence.
- Perform a close reading of a short story.
- Understand narrative development from the introduction, to rising action and climax, to denouement.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

Police dramas are a popular genre of television programs, and solving crimes through observation of evidence and reasoning is a popular subject of literature as well. Ask students if they have read any detective stories, and if so, what constitutes a great story in this genre. Allow students time to think of some examples and be sure the ones they offer are true instances of the genre.

Lesson Development

Class Discussion

Guide students through a discussion of how detective stories are a distinct type of short story. To encourage discussion, ask the following questions:

- All short stories involve people or animals (characters) who act or are acted upon (plot) and who exist in a certain place and time (setting). Stories also require a narrator and the events he or she relates. How do these elements function in a detective story and distinguish it from other short stories?
- In a short story, information may be withheld from the narrator, the reader, or both. In a detective story, however, it is essential for the reader to be shown all the evidence the detective possesses. Why is this the case?
- What characterizes a good suspect? Is there a reason in most detective stories why at least one suspect is wrongly accused?
- What are some differences between the detective and the police? Keep in mind not only differences in their personal characteristics, but also differences in their methods for solving the crime.

- What are some key features of the detective? How is the detective like a scientist?
- Detective stories have a special kind of ending, one that not all short stories share. What is the significance of this ending?

The Blue Carbuncle is published in its entirety on many websites. In addition, there are many websites devoted to Sherlock Holmes that include lively and contentious discussions of his methods and reasoning.

Small Group Work

Inform students that detective stories reward close and active reading, because if you pay close attention and use some logical reasoning, you can actually solve the crime, even outwitting the detective himself! *The Blue Carbuncle* is an excellent example. Close readers have identified at least eight instances of faulty reasoning by Sherlock Holmes, the world’s master detective. Have students work in teams to find some of these instances.

As an example, use Holmes’ description of what he has learned about Henry Baker from his hat: “Look at the band of ribbed silk, and the excellent lining. If this man could afford to buy so expensive a hat three years ago, and has had no hat since, then he has assuredly gone down in the world.” “Gone down in the world”? It’s just as likely that Baker owned more than one hat, and that he chose to wear his old one in order to carry a goose through London’s dark streets at four o’clock in the morning!

Divide students into teams of four to six detectives. Tell them they will search for faulty reasoning, showing where and why Holmes has made his mistakes. From the list they create, each detective will choose a single error, write a paragraph to explain why it is erroneous, and show how the evidence could be explained differently.

Class Discussion

Ask the teams to report back to class, list the errors the detective has committed, and, if time permits, explain why they believe he is mistaken.

Lesson Closure

Remind students that detective stories contain all the elements of the short story, but use them in a distinctive way.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Students may think that detective fiction is an inferior genre, not realizing that it is an offspring of the traditional short story.

Students may believe that all short stories conform to the same format. However, some genres such as detective fiction emphasize plot instead of character, denouement instead of climax, and present “evidence” that is as available to the reader as it is to the narrator or any of the characters.

Student Assessment Artifacts

One-paragraph report on the logical fallacies in the story.

Variations and Extensions

Student reports on logical fallacies can be extended to include *all* the errors they find.

Students can be challenged to read a Sherlock Holmes story closely and try to solve the crime on their own. Two stories that lend themselves to this challenge are *The Red Headed League* and *The Speckled Band*. In each, the clues are fully laid out before the short denouement at the end of the story, in which Holmes interprets them.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts

- Students read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
- Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.
- Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

CALIFORNIA

Content Standards for English Language Arts 9—10

Reading

- 3.3 Analyze interactions between main and subordinate characters in a literary text (e.g., internal and external conflicts, motivations, relationships, influences) and explain the way those interactions affect the plot.
- 3.4 Determine characters' traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, dramatic monologue, and soliloquy.
- 3.5 Compare works that express a universal theme and provide evidence to support the ideas expressed in each work.
- 3.6 Analyze and trace an author's development of time and sequence, including the use of complex literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, flashbacks).
- 3.7 Recognize and understand the significance of various literary devices, including figurative language, imagery, allegory, and symbolism, and explain their appeal.
- 3.8 Interpret and evaluate the impact of ambiguities, subtleties, contradictions, ironies, and incongruities in a text.
- 3.9 Explain how voice, persona, and the choice of a narrator affect characterization and the tone, plot, and credibility of a text.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Faulty Reasoning: You Outwit Sherlock Holmes!

Here are nine instances of faulty reasoning by the detective, in the order in which they appear in the story.

1. Holmes assumes that a big head or big brain confers higher intelligence, a prejudice of the Victorian era that was soon disproved. He relies upon *phrenology*, the pseudoscientific study of the shape of the head, claimed to deduce the intelligence and personality of a person by “reading” the bumps and other features of a skull.
2. Baker knew that he would be walking through London in the middle of the night, and so in all likelihood, he decided to wear an older hat on this occasion.
3. “If this man ordered one, it is a sign of a certain amount of foresight.” Buying the hat, Baker may have merely succumbed to the persuasion of a good salesman.
4. Holmes infers that Henry Baker probably had not had gas lights on at his home from the presence of five tallow stains upon Mr. Baker’s battered billycock. Yet Holmes says that Baker “walks upstairs at night probably with his hat in one hand and a guttering candle in the other.” Under those conditions, how did the tallow stains get on the hat?
5. However, everybody, athlete or couch potato, perspires, and it would be unlikely that a 3-year-old hat would lack stains altogether.
6. It’s likely that Mrs. Baker is Henry’s wife, but hardly proven. She could almost as easily have been his mother.
7. “It cuts into glass as though it were putty.” This proves nothing, because glass cuts into putty as well.
8. “Carbon,” not charcoal. At any rate, no garnet has any carbon or charcoal in it. There are several statements that suggest Holmes has not identified the nature of this jewel.
9. When confronted by Holmes, James Ryder was quick to bring up Catherine Cusack’s name, as if to share the guilt. However, it is worth noting that Ryder only said, “It was Catherine Cusack who told me of it.” It was Holmes who made the leap to calling her a “confederate.” Was Cusack truly involved in the crime, or was she merely guilty of talking too freely about her mistress’s jewels? Wouldn’t an “upper attendant” at a hotel have reasonably free access to a guest’s room if he chose to exercise it? Did Holmes jump to conclusions too rapidly?

Subunit 1—Murder Most Foul

Murder in the Classroom

LESSON 1.3

Foundations of Law/Biology

Time
50 minutes

Materials

Equipment (props)

- Mannequin (can use a CPR dummy)
- Unused classroom or secured area
- Fake blood (recipe below)
- Knife (murder weapon)
- Yellow crime scene tape
- Teacher “suspects”
- Thermometer (optional)
- Ruler or measuring tape
- White chalk
- Notepads (or paper)
- Pens and/or pencils
- Digital camera (optional)
- Voice recorder (optional)
- Camcorder (optional)

Prior Student Learning

Students should be familiar with the basic procedures for investigating crime scenes.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Apply forensic science techniques and procedures.
- Observe and identify scientific evidence.
- Perform detailed observations.

Lesson Activities

Teacher Preparation

For this class, a mock murder will be set up, and students will perform a crime scene investigation. The victim is a young adult who has been stabbed in the heart. Recruit a teacher to be the guilty party, and some additional suspects willing to play along.

Pick an area where you can leave the “crime scene” set up for the entire day. The crime scene set up will include (1) the body of the victim; (2) the murder weapon; (3) fake blood; (4) two sets of smudged footprints (victim and perpetrator); and (5) some physical evidence indicating the presence of one young adult and one older adult, perhaps two chairs near the victim, one with a book bag and one with a newspaper.

In the investigation, students have the option of collecting several different types of evidence. Footprint evidence allows students to estimate the height of the perpetrator and should reflect the actual stride of the guilty teacher. Body temperature and the law of cooling will determine that the crime took place during passing time between classes. Be sure to set up the crime scene in an area relatively close to the guilty teacher’s classroom because students will use the length of passing time and average stride to determine the radius the perpetrator could have traveled without drawing attention by running.

Lesson Springboard

Tell the class that a murder has taken place! Their job will be to investigate this terrible crime and bring the perpetrator to justice. Luckily, they will be learning many techniques in their other classes that will help them solve the crime.

According to the FBI’s *Handbook of Forensic Services* (<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/handbook/intro.htm>), “The successful investigation and

prosecution of crimes require, in most cases, the collection, preservation, and forensic analysis of evidence. Forensic analysis of evidence is often crucial to determinations of guilt or innocence.” In this lesson, students will use forensic science to investigate a staged murder. A shoe or stride print will narrow down the suspect pool by eliminating a specific gender or height of the suspect. The stride length and a time of death will restrict the number of suspects to people within a certain radius. The victim’s body temperature will indicate a time of death, which will destroy, or support, certain suspects’ alibis. Forensics coupled with witness testimony will pinpoint the suspect, and because this crime scene will contain DNA evidence, DNA fingerprinting should seal the case.

Lesson Development

The Approach

Student teams of four should enter your classroom and see yellow tape surrounding an area indicating that a crime has occurred. Student group members should have the following assigned positions (students should delegate responsibilities among themselves):

- Person in charge (team leader)
- Photographer
- Sketch preparer
- Evidence recorder

The Scene

Inside the yellow tape, students will find the following:

- One murder victim (a mannequin or CPR dummy) who has been stabbed.
- Fake blood on and near the victim.
- A “bloody” knife near the body (or it could have been previously “discovered” and secured but available).
- “Bloody” shoe prints that will allow students to approximate the assailant’s stride and his or her height (could also be white chalk outline of shoe prints).
- Two body temperature readings: one initial, the other at a later time period to approximate the time of death (data can also be provided).

Along with the basic crime scene protocol, students should have writing material and a pen or pencil in order to take notes. If a camera or voice recorder is available, students should also complete the narrative portion of the crime scene investigation (narrative can also be written).

Students should begin the assigned task of identifying the prime suspect by using crime scene investigation techniques to uncover any forensic evidence found at the crime scene.

Note: Students should understand the importance of following procedures, taking accurate detailed notes, and preserving the quality of evidence (for themselves and in any other classes).

Lesson Closure

At the close of this lesson, students should be asked how they felt about this assignment. Even though students may find the class experience exciting, they should understand that in real life, murder is not fun from any perspective and that

Fake Blood Recipe

Ingredients:

- Corn syrup
- Red food coloring
- Blue food coloring
- Cornstarch (if not thick enough)
- Liquid dishwashing detergent (to prevent staining)

Instructions:

Mix red food coloring into corn syrup. Use blue food coloring and cornstarch as needed to provide realistic color and thickness. Adding a small amount of liquid dishwashing detergent will ensure that the mixture washes out of clothing.

forensic scientists along with law enforcement officials have the serious responsibility of seeing that the people responsible are brought to justice.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Students should understand that crime scene investigations of this type usually require a team of forensic scientists who perform a majority of their work in laboratories because different disciplines of science are required: often a single investigator lacks the necessary educational background and expertise to conduct the entire investigation. Therefore, a team of forensic scientists is often used. A ballistics expert may use be a physicist and a forensic pathologist will be a medical doctor, while the scientist analyzing blood samples may be a chemist or biologist.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Crime scene administrative log
Detailed crime scene notes (narrative)
Sketch of scene
Evidence log

Variations and Extensions

Invite a law enforcement officer or forensic scientist to speak to the class about crime scene investigation and provide details about occupations in Forensics.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NRC National Science Education Standards

Science as Inquiry

Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
Understandings about scientific inquiry

Science and technology

Understandings about science and technology

Science in personal and social perspective

Science and technology in local, national, and global challenges

History of Nature and Science

Science as a human endeavor

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Science Content Standards

Investigation & Experimentation – Grades 9 to 12

- d. Formulate explanations by using logic and evidence.
- k. Recognize the cumulative nature of scientific evidence.
- i. Analyze situations and solve problems that require combining and applying concepts from more than one area of science.

Crime Scene Investigations

SUBUNIT 2 OVERVIEW

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Subunit Goals

In Subunit 2, students use mathematics and science concepts to analyze the physical evidence taken from the crime scene in an attempt to solve the crime. A set of mathematics lessons provides students with information that will narrow down their suspect list. They deduce the perpetrator’s height by using proportional reasoning; calculate the time of death using Newton’s Law of Cooling; and estimate the range of travel possible in the window of opportunity by deriving the equation of a circle from the distance formula. If students complete only one of the math lessons, they should be provided with the “results” of the other lessons so they will have a complete set of evidence. Students also study blood types and DNA analysis techniques in order to analyze “blood” left at the crime scene.

Subunit Key Questions

- How can ratios and proportions be used to figure out someone’s height based on their footprints? (Algebra I)
- How can a murder victim “tell” us when he or she was killed? (Algebra II)
- How can the distance formula and circle equations be used to eliminate suspects if we know the crime was committed during passing time between classes? (Geometry)
- What information can we obtain from blood collected at the scene? How can it help us find the guilty party? (Biology or Health Science I)
- Is DNA the best source of evidence? What *doesn’t* DNA left at the scene reveal about a crime? (Biology)
- How is crime evidence documented by investigators in the field? How is evidence officially reported? (English Language Arts)

Lesson Summaries

Lesson	Subject	Description	Class Sessions
2.1	Algebra I	Lengthy Relationships Students measure the height and stride of each class member and use proportional reasoning to determine the approximate height of an unknown person given their stride length taken from footprints at the crime scene.	1
2.2	Algebra II	Time of Death Students apply Newton’s Law of Cooling, a logarithmic equation, to the crime scene by taking temperature readings of the environment and the victim to determine the time of death.	1
2.3	Geometry	Suspect Radius Students apply the distance formula and the equation for the radius of a circle to determine the maximum area surrounding the crime scene that the murderer could have traveled to commit the crime.	1
2.4	Biology	Blood Typing Students apply their knowledge of blood types to eliminate possible suspects by typing the blood samples found at the crime scene.	1

Lesson Summaries, continued

Lesson	Subject	Description	Class Sessions
2.5	Biology	DNA Fingerprinting Students gain an understanding of how DNA fingerprinting is used in crime investigations. They learn about the function and role of restriction enzymes in DNA analysis, analyze the results of an electrophoresis gel, and explain the mechanisms underlying <i>Southern blotting</i> .	3–4
2.6	English Language Arts	Field Notes and Interviews Students learn how to take effective field notes in preparation for investigating a crime scene. They also learn effective techniques for interviewing witnesses, including rapport building, open-ended questions, and probing follow up questions.	2–3
2.7	English Language Arts	Writing the Police Report Students learn how to write concise police reports that differentiate between facts, opinions, and conclusions. They produce brief narrative technical reports to law enforcement writing standards, including the use of active voice.	2–3

Subunit 2—Crime Scene Investigations

Lengthy Relationships

LESSON 2.1

Algebra I

Time

50 minutes

Materials

Equipment

- Graph paper
- Rulers
- Yard or Meter sticks
- Butcher paper (optional)

Prior Student Learning

Students should already be familiar with graphing linear equations and determining linear equations from graphs.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Use proportional reasoning to determine the approximate height of people given their stride length.
- Create a line of best fit for their observed data and make predictions from the data.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

There were two sets of footprints at the scene of the crime. One set has been matched with the victim, and the other set has been concluded to belong to the murderer. What can investigators deduce from this evidence?

Lesson Development

Class Discussion

Brainstorm with the class about what can be learned from a set of footprints. They might mention, for example, the gender of the murderer—based on the shape of the shoe print—and the murderer’s approximate weight if the prints were on soft material like mud, etc. If not already mentioned, ask the class whether they could determine the perpetrator’s approximate height, and if so, how.

We can assume that the longer a person’s stride, the taller the person. Tell students that they will be collecting and analyzing data in order to draw some conclusions about the murderer’s approximate height.

Small Group Work

As a class, decide whether everyone will use metric or customary units. Then have students break into small groups and allow them to measure and record each person’s height. After that, groups must figure out the most accurate way to measure each person’s average stride length while walking. Butcher paper can be helpful for recording footprints if available. Students may come up with several different methods, and the class will evaluate those methods later on.

When each group has finished measuring the average stride length and height of each member, record all of the class data on the board. Have each group graph the data and identify any patterns.

Class Discussion

As a class, discuss the relationship on the graph and whether it is best generalized as linear, parabolic, or something else. Then have students draw their line of best fit, determine the slope and y intercept of their line, and write an equation relating height and stride length.

Students will have come up with different lines of best fit and resulting equations. Discuss the reasons for these differences. If appropriate, mention that mathematicians have developed methods to get accurate lines of best fit, and students will be learning about those methods later on.

Discuss the different methods for finding a person's average stride length. Ask the class to consider which method they think is the best and why. Decide whether the data each group collected were accurate enough to include in the final data analysis. Have students justify their opinion as to whether the best-fit line they created needs to be moved. Choose or create a graph, line of best fit, and equation that best represents the relationship between height and stride length.

Lesson Closure

Plug in the stride length of the murderer into the equation the class has created to find his or her approximate height. Discuss what would be an appropriate margin of error for this conclusion. Finally, eliminate teachers from the suspect list based on their height.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Students may believe that each stride they take is the same length and may want to take only a single measurement per person in their group, rather than taking multiple measurements and calculating an average.

Students may want to plug in the murderer's stride length into their equation and believe that they will get an "exact" height. It is important to discuss an appropriate range for their conclusion concerning approximate height.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Data table of height and stride length measurements
Graph of data with line of best fit and equation
List of teachers who are still suspects due to their height

Variations and Extensions

Students may suggest that the murderer could have been running, rather than walking, making the stride length longer. The class could conduct a similar study with running stride lengths.

Students may want to create a direct proportion between their individual height and stride length and the stride length of the suspect to calculate the suspect's height. Ask them to use that method and compare their answer to what the class's best-fit line suggests. Ask students to think about which method would produce the most useful results, and why.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NCTM – Principles and Standards of School Mathematics

Instructional programs from prekindergarten through grade 12 should enable all students to—

- understand patterns, relations, and functions;
- represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols;
- use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships;
- analyze change in various contexts.

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Content Standards for Algebra

- 5.0 Students solve multistep problems, including word problems, involving linear equations and linear inequalities in one variable and provide justification for each step.
- 6.0 Students graph a linear equation and compute the x - and y -intercepts (e.g., graph $2x + 6y = 4$). They are also able to sketch the region defined by linear inequality (e.g., they sketch the region defined by $2x + 6y < 4$).
- 7.0 Students verify that a point lies on a line, given an equation of the line. Students are able to derive linear equations by using the point-slope formula.



Algebra II

Time
50 minutes

**Materials
Equipment**

- Graph paper
- Scientific calculators

Resources
"Teacher Page for the Exponential and Logarithmic CSI Project"
(<http://webpages.csus.edu/~sac46677/teacherpage.htm>)

Prior Student Learning
Students should already be familiar with logarithmic equations and the constant e .

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Solve logarithmic equations for an unknown.
- Graph logarithmic equations.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

When the body was discovered, an astute investigator took the victim's temperature and the temperature of the room. An hour later, the investigator took the temperature of the victim again. With this information, can the time of death be determined? Who can be eliminated as a suspect once the time of death is known?

Lesson Development

Direct Instruction

Introduce the idea that scientists can estimate the time of death of a person by calculating how long it would have taken the body to cool to the temperature observed at the time it was found. The body doesn't cool in a linear fashion, according to Newton's Law of Cooling and actual forensic studies.

Newton's Law of Cooling states that:

$$T(t) = T_s + (T_0 - T_s)e^{(-kt)}$$

where:

t is the time in the preferred units (seconds, minutes, hours, etc.)

$T(t)$ is the temperature of the object at time t

T_s is the surrounding constant temperature (room temperature)

T_0 is the initial temperature of the object

k is a constant to be found

Explain that k must be determined for the body in question before the actual time of death can be calculated. Give the class the data about the room temperature and the two body temperature readings that the investigator (or your class) measured.

Small Group Work

As a class, decide what unit of time the entire class will use. Then, have students solve for k in small groups using the recorded data. Students will have to remember how to solve logarithmic equations. Circulate among students to check whether they understand how to solve these equations.

If there is time, have one group present their findings to the class and come to a consensus about the value of k for this human body.

Now that the value of k has been established, have each group graph the equation they created for the cooling rate of human flesh. Use this graph to estimate the time of death. Then, have groups solve for the time of death by manipulating the equation algebraically, assuming that $t = 0$ is the time that the first temperature reading was taken at the crime scene. Allow a group to present their findings and justify their mathematical reasoning as to the estimated time of death for the victim.

Class Discussion

Students should check their answer by graphing their equation for the cooling rate of human flesh on their graphing calculator, and then by using the “trace” or “calculate” function. Discuss any inconsistencies that the groups may have found.

Lesson Closure

Discuss the accuracy of this calculation in terms of the actual time of death. Narrow the window of time in which the crime could have been committed and eliminate suspects from the suspect list.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Students may have assumed that the cooling rate of bodies is linear. When they discover it is logarithmic, they may assume that the k constant will be given to them and that it is the same for all human bodies. Asking the class to solve for k makes the constant specific to the victim’s body. This also provides needed practice in solving these types of equations.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Working in groups or as individuals, students can produce a written report showing the calculations and graphs that led them to eliminate certain witnesses. “The Teacher Page for Exponential and Logarithmic CSI Project” (<http://webpages.csus.edu/~sac46677/teacherpage.htm>) offers another murder mystery scenario that uses the same concepts as this lesson and can be assigned as a reinforcement exercise.

Variations and Extensions

This lesson can easily be combined with a physics lesson on Newton’s Law of Cooling and temperature experiments.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NCTM—Principles and Standards of School Mathematics

Instructional programs from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 should enable all students to—

- understand patterns, relations, and functions;
- represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols;
- use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships;
- analyze change in various contexts.
- build new mathematical knowledge through problem solving;
- solve problems that arise in mathematics and in other contexts;
- apply and adapt a variety of appropriate strategies to solve problems; and
- monitor and reflect on the process of mathematical problem solving.

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Content Standards for Algebra II

- 11.0 Students prove simple laws of logarithms.
- 11.1 Students understand the inverse relationship between exponents and logarithms and use this relationship to solve problems involving logarithms and exponents.
- 11.2 Students judge the validity of an argument according to whether the properties of real numbers, exponents, and logarithms have been applied correctly at each step.
- 12.0 Students know the laws of fractional exponents, understand exponential functions, and use these functions in problems involving exponential growth and decay.
- 13.0 Students use the definition of logarithms to translate between logarithms in any base.
- 14.0 Students understand and use the properties of logarithms to simplify logarithmic numeric expressions and to identify their approximate values.

Subunit 2—Crime Scene Investigations

Suspect Radius

LESSON 2.3

Geometry**Time**

50 minutes

Materials

- Graph paper
- Rulers
- Yard or Meter sticks
- Timers
- Map of the school campus
- Compass

Prior Student Learning

Students should already be familiar with the distance formula and its derivation.

Students will have completed the lesson on determining the approximate time of the victim's death.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Graph the equation of a circle given its center and radius.
- Give the equation of a circle given its center and radius.
- Determine whether a point lies in the interior or exterior of a circle from its equation.
- Derive the equation of a circle from the distance formula.

Lesson Activities**Lesson Springboard**

From previous forensic investigations, we have already determined the approximate time of death, and that the murderer was most likely a teacher. Witnesses have confirmed that everyone on the faculty was either teaching a class or in a meeting during the 2 class sessions overlapping the time when the murder could have occurred. No teachers were late to their classes or meetings (except, of course, the victim). Therefore, the murder occurred during the passing time between classes.

Given that no one noticed a faculty member who was out of breath or otherwise showing signs of running, one can conclude that the murderer walked from his or her classroom to commit the crime and walked back in time to start the next class. Passing period is 5 minutes long. With this information, which teachers are still suspects? Which teachers are now eliminated from suspicion?

Lesson Development***Small Group Work***

In small groups, have students figure out the approximate speed at which a person would walk in the school halls using a timer and yardstick. Have the groups share their data; ask the class to agree upon a speed that is reasonable and would not rule out any possible suspects.

Discussion

The class can now calculate the maximum distance that a teacher could have traveled during the passing period between classes. Ask the class “if you were to mark all the points on campus that were the farthest a teacher could have been when the passing period started, what shape would you end up with?” Students

should realize that this maximum distance is divided in half, because the teacher would have to reach the scene of the crime and return to his or her classroom. Then, students will reason that all points a set distance from a given point (where the murder was committed) constitute a circle.

Hand out a scaled map of the campus that already has grid lines on it, with the origin labeled at one corner of the page. Ask students to mark the place where the murder occurred and give the coordinates of that point (h,k) . Because students are already familiar with the distance formula, they can plug the point of the crime and the distance they determined from their investigation into that formula to get the equation of a circle.

The maximum distance between the scene of the crime (h,k) and the murderer at the beginning of the passing period (x,y) is r .

$$\text{Distance formula: } \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2} = d$$

Plug in r for d , (h,k) for (x_1, y_1) and (x,y) for (x_2, y_2) :

$$\sqrt{(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2} = r$$

Square both sides to derive the general equation of a circle:

$$(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$$

Point (h,k) is the center of the circle and r is the radius.

Individual Work

Have all students calculate at least three points that lie on the circle and graph them on the map. Then, have students confirm that their points lie on the circle by carefully drawing the entire circle using a compass.

Lesson Closure

Finally, ask how a student investigator would know whether a teacher is inside or outside the circle of suspicion without looking at the map. Ask students to test points obviously in the interior and exterior of the circle to see if they find any patterns. They should discover that if the distance between (h,k) and (x,y) is greater than r , then the teacher is no longer suspect. If the left side of the equation is less than r^2 , the teacher could still be guilty. Use this information to narrow down the list of possible murderers at the school.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Students often consider equations of circles and other figures as completely unrelated to previous equations they have worked with. This is the ideal time to remind students that all equations and graphs are representations of relationships between variables. It might be helpful to review the types of relationships that are represented as lines and parabolas.

The equation of a circle is a direct result of the distance formula, which in turn is derived from the Pythagorean Theorem. Students may not make the connection between the definition of a circle and its resulting equation in coordinate geometry.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Data and calculations to determine maximum distance from the scene of the crime
Equation of the suspect circle and graphed circle on school map
List of teachers who are still suspects due to the location of their classroom and calculations that confirm those conclusions

Variations and Extensions

This problem becomes more interesting if your school has multiple floors. Students can decide how much time it takes to climb up and down the stairs and then create appropriate circles of suspicion on each floor of the building.

If your school is large enough or you need more suspects, the murderer can run instead of walk. Further, the time of the murder can be changed to allow a larger (but still set) window of movement by the murderer. For example, the murder could occur during break, lunch, or between the end of the school day and the beginning of a staff meeting.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NCTM—Principles and Standards of School Mathematics

Instructional programs from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 should enable all students to—

- specify locations and describe spatial relationships using coordinate geometry and other representational systems;
- use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems.

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Content Standards for Geometry

- 3.0 Students construct and judge the validity of a logical argument and give counterexamples to disprove a statement.
- 17.0 Students prove theorems by using coordinate geometry, including the midpoint of a line segment, the distance formula, and various forms of equations of lines and circles.



Subunit 2—Crime Scene Investigations

Blood Typing

LESSON 2.4

Biology

Time

50 minutes

Materials

Equipment

- Simulated blood samples collected from the crime scene
- Blood typing kit or anti-sera A, B, and Rh
- Blood typing trays or glass slides
- Toothpicks

Resources

CSI: Blood Typing worksheet

Prior Student Learning

Students should have a basic understanding of the immune system and how it functions.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Identify and explain the differences between blood types.
- Explain the role of the immune system in blood transfusions.
- Determine the type of a blood sample through antigen testing.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

Remind students that they collected blood samples from the crime scene. What kinds of information do they think they will get from the blood samples?

Lesson Development

Direct Instruction

Introduce students to the fact that there are different blood types. Begin by describing red blood cells, including their shape and their purpose (to carry oxygen to tissues). Ask students whether they think all blood is the same and conduct an informal poll to determine whether students know their own blood types.

Explain that there are four major blood types (*A*, *B*, *AB*, and *O*) determined by the presence or absence of two carbohydrates (*A* and *B*) on the surface of the blood cells. A person’s immune system recognizes the carbohydrate(s) that are present in its own blood, but will attack blood with any different carbohydrates. When blood is attacked by anti-*A* and/or anti-*B* antibodies, the blood cells will clump together. This can be fatal if it occurs in the bloodstream. Therefore, it is important to make sure that transfused blood is compatible with the target. Write the following chart on the board and discuss which donor blood types will be accepted by recipients.

	O Recipient	A Recipient	B Recipient	AB Recipient
O Donor	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
A Donor	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
B Donor	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
AB Donor	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>

In addition to the *A* and *B* surface carbohydrates, human blood has another distinguishing characteristic known as the *Rh factor*. In general, blood is either *Rh positive* (*Rh+*) or *Rh negative* (*Rh-*), which refers to presence or absence of the Rh protein on the surface of the blood cell. Incompatible Rh factors will cause blood to clump together, just as with the *A/B* blood types. In a population of 100:

84 are RH+	16 are RH-
38 are O+	7 are O-
34 are A+	6 are A-
9 are B+	2 are B-
3 are AB+	1 is AB-

While potentially fatal within the human body, the blood clumping reaction, also known as *agglutination*, can be used to identify blood type.

Crime Scene Lab

Pass out the CSI: Blood Typing worksheet. Using the simulated blood collected from the crime scene, have students examine the victim's blood, as well as the multiple blood samples collected from the scene, to determine the blood types of the victim and others. (Some samples should be additional blood from the victim; some should be from the perpetrator.)

Lesson Closure

Discuss with the class what they have learned about the crime. The conversation should indicate that they know there is blood from another person at the crime scene, and that the extra blood most likely came from the perpetrator. Ask them: What steps should be taken next? How can this information be used to narrow the suspect list?

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Many students have trouble with donor versus recipient compatibility (e.g., that *AB* can accept *O* blood, but *O* cannot accept *AB* blood).

Student Assessment Artifacts

Completed CSI: Blood Typing worksheet

Variations and Extensions

Before testing the blood from the crime scene, you may choose to have students examine their own blood to determine its type. This will require lancets and alcohol swabs, in addition to the anti-sera. However, two prior considerations are important. Some students may be reluctant to draw their own blood sample. And, you may not want to run the risk of any blood-borne contamination.

If this lesson is taking place in the Health Science class, you may wish to extend this lesson to include phlebotomy.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NRC National Science Education Standards

Life Science

The Cell

Cells have particular structures that underlie their functions. Every cell is surrounded by a membrane that separates it from the outside world. Inside the cell is a concentrated mixture of thousands of different molecules which form a variety of specialized structures that carry out such cell functions as energy production, transport of molecules, waste disposal, synthesis of new molecules, and the storage of genetic material.

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Content Standards for Biology/Life Science

Cell Biology

1. The fundamental life processes of plants and animals depend on a variety of chemical reactions that occur in specialized areas of the organism's cells.

Physiology

9. As a result of the coordinated structures and functions of organ systems, the internal environment of the human body remains relatively stable (homeostatic) despite changes in the outside environment.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

CSI: Blood Typing

Crime Scene Summary

After discovering the body, you should have collected blood samples from the victim and from the various blood spatters around the scene. Your goal is to identify the blood from the various samples. Most of the blood is probably from the victim, but you should test to be sure. If there is any other blood, that will be an important clue.

Materials

Blood samples
Anti-A serum
Anti-B serum
Anti-Rh serum
Blood typing trays
Toothpick

Reaction Chart

Anti-A Reaction	Anti-B Reaction	Blood Type
Agglutination	No Agglutination	A
No Agglutination	Agglutination	B
Agglutination	Agglutination	AB
No Agglutination	No Agglutination	O

Anti-Rh serum: Agglutination = Rh+

Procedure

1. Label four blood typing trays as *Victim*, *Sample #1*, *Sample #2*, and *Sample #3*.
2. Place 1 drop of blood sample in each of the wells on the typing tray.
3. Place 3 drops of the anti-A serum on the blood in the A well.
4. Stir the sample with a clean toothpick for 30 seconds.
5. Place 3 drops of the anti-B serum on the blood in the B well.
6. Stir the sample with a clean toothpick for 30 seconds.
7. Place 3 drops of the anti-Rh serum on the blood in the Rh well.
8. Stir the sample with a clean toothpick for 30 seconds.
9. Record your observations in the data table and use the reaction chart below to determine the blood type.

Data Table

Blood Source	Anti-A Reaction	Anti-B Reaction	Anti-Rh Reaction
Victim			
Sample 1			
Sample 2			
Sample 3			

Conclusions

1. What is the victim's blood type?
2. What are the blood types of Samples #1, 2, and 3?
3. Is all of this blood from the victim? How do you know?

4. What have you learned about the crime? What do you still need to know?

Subunit 2—Crime Scene Investigations

DNA Fingerprinting

LESSON 2.5

Biology**Time**

3–4 class sessions

Materials**Equipment (for each group)**

- EcoRI enzyme
- BamHI enzyme
- HindIII enzyme
- Ice
- Lambda DNA (0.5 mg/ml)
- 2x multicore® restriction buffer
- Loading dye
- 1Kb DNA ladder
- 1% agarose gel (1g. agarose/ 100 ml. TBE or TAE buffer- microwave and pour)
- 1X TBE or TAE Buffer
- Carolina Blue® stain (or ethidium bromide and UV source)
- Microcentrifuge tubes
- 0.5–10 ul. micropipettors and tips
- 37°C water bath
- Electrophoresis equipment
- Microtube racks
- 10 mm rulers
- 10 sheets of graph paper
- Hot plate with magnetic stirrer or microwave oven

Resources

- Restriction Enzymes worksheet
- CSI: DNA Fingerprinting worksheet

Prior Student Learning

Students should be familiar with the structure of DNA.

Students should already have narrowed their suspect list to two or three individuals in the previous lessons in Subunit 2.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Explain the function and role of restriction enzymes in DNA analysis.
- Analyze the results of an electrophoresis gel.
- Explain the mechanisms underlying *Southern blotting*.

Lesson Activities**Teacher Preparation**

This is a lab is a **simplified simulation** of DNA fingerprinting using *lambda DNA* and *restriction enzymes* (*EcoRI*, *BamHI*, *HindIII*). However, to get the desired simulated results, the “DNA samples” will actually be the restriction enzymes, and the “restriction enzyme” is lambda DNA.

To save class time, prepare an agarose gel for each group prior to class. Aliquot 4 µl of each of three different enzymes and label them as DNA from three different suspects for the demonstration. Be sure to keep the restriction enzymes on ice at all times.

Aliquot 4 µl of lambda DNA and label it as a restriction enzyme. Prepare sufficient buffer solution for all groups to run their gels. A 37°C water bath should be prepared in a beaker.

Lesson Springboard

Have students share any examples of DNA testing they may be familiar with from popular culture. Bring in a recent news story about DNA testing, possibly a story about a criminal exoneration based on DNA evidence and share it with the class.

Explain that DNA fingerprinting, though it is considered quite reliable, is expensive and time consuming, and therefore typically not used at the outset of an investigation. However, once a field of suspects has been narrowed down, collection and analysis of DNA samples can be a key piece of evidence. At this point in their own investigation, the students’ field of suspects should be narrowed down to only two or three. Have students go out and “collect” DNA samples from their suspects.

Lesson Development

Simulation

Remind students of what they have learned about the structure of DNA. Explain the function of restriction enzymes and how they are used in DNA analysis. Pass out the Restriction Enzymes handout, and have students tape together several copies of a base pair sequence. Using two restriction enzymes, have students cut apart the base pair sequence and observe the different size fragments that result.

Direct Instruction

Introduce the concept of *DNA fingerprinting*. Only 0.001% of DNA (about 3 million bases) differs from one person to the next. However, those small variable regions are enough for scientists to generate a DNA profile of an individual, using DNA extracted from blood, bone, hair, and other body tissues or products.

Tell students that in criminal cases, DNA is extracted from both the crime scene evidence and from the suspect. Both sets of DNA are analyzed for the presence of a set of specific DNA regions (*markers*). Scientists find the markers in a DNA sample by designing small pieces of DNA (*probes*) that will each seek out and bind to a complementary DNA sequence in the sample. A series of radioactive probes bound to a DNA sample creates a distinctive pattern for an individual.

Explain that forensic scientists compare these DNA profiles to determine whether the suspect's sample matches the evidence sample. A single marker is not usually unique to an individual, so forensic scientists generally look at multiple markers. If the sample profiles don't match, the person did not contribute the DNA at the crime scene, but if the two DNA samples match at multiple regions, the odds are good that the two samples come from the same person. While there is a chance that someone else has the same DNA profile for a particular probe set, the odds are exceedingly slim, especially if there are multiple probes. Four to six probes are recommended.

Pose the following question: "How small do the odds have to be when conviction of the guilty or acquittal of the innocent lies in the balance?" Tell students that many judges consider this a matter for a jury to take into consideration along with other evidence in the case. Experts point out that using DNA forensic technology is far superior to eyewitness accounts, where the odds for correct identification are only about 50:50. The more probes used in DNA analysis, the greater the odds for a unique pattern and against a coincidental match, but each additional probe adds greatly to the time and expense of testing.

Point out that DNA fingerprinting is essentially a Southern Blot procedure that requires five general steps:

1. Isolation of DNA—DNA must be recovered from the cells or tissues of the body. Only a small amount of tissue—such as blood, hair, or skin—is needed. For example, the amount of DNA found at the root of one hair is usually sufficient.
2. Cutting—Special enzymes called *restriction enzymes* are used to cut the DNA at specific places. For example, an enzyme called *EcoRI*, found in bacteria, will cut DNA only when the sequence GAATTC occurs.

3. Sizing and sorting—The DNA pieces are sorted according to size by a sieving technique called *electrophoresis*. The DNA pieces are passed through a gel made from seaweed agarose (a jelly-like product made from seaweed). This technique is the biotechnology equivalent of screening sand through progressively finer mesh screens to determine particle sizes.
4. Probing—The distribution of DNA pieces is transferred to a nylon sheet by placing the sheet on the gel and soaking the pieces overnight. Radioactive or colored probes that are added to the nylon sheet produce a pattern called the *DNA fingerprint*. Each probe typically sticks in only one or two specific places on the nylon sheet.
5. DNA fingerprint—The final DNA fingerprint is built by using several probes (5–10 or more) simultaneously. It resembles the bar codes used by grocery store scanners.

Lab Activity

Pass out the CSI:DNA Fingerprinting lab procedures handout. In this lab, students will simulate how DNA fingerprinting (or DNA profiling) might be used to solve a crime.

In previous lessons, students should have narrowed down their suspect list to two or three individuals. The lab simulates DNA gathered at the crime scene against that of the two or three suspects. In the lab, students perform restriction digests. In order to search for similarities between samples, they will run the restriction fragments on an electrophoresis gel. This simulates Steps 2 and 3 of the DNA fingerprinting lab procedures. This activity does not require students to isolate their DNA from cells or to use radioactive probes.

In order to make DNA fingerprinting affordable, a little deception is required on the part of the teacher. Lambda DNA is used instead of multiple plasmids. This means that the teacher will have to switch the labels on the samples given to the students. The sample labeled DNA is actually the different restriction enzymes, and the sample labeled restriction enzyme is the lambda DNA.

Have students follow the procedures on the DNA Fingerprinting handout. The lab will take about 3 days. You can save class time by doing the restriction digest yourself, and/or you can pre-run the gels and just have students stain and observe the results.

Class Discussion

As introduced earlier, true DNA fingerprinting involves five general steps— isolating the DNA; restriction of the DNA samples into fragments that can be handled more easily; separation by size of the various length fragments using electrophoresis; attaching radioactive probes; and then visualizing certain fragments to which radioactive probes have been attached.

During the “down time” of the lab (i.e., while the gel is running or while the gel is staining), discuss the ways in which this activity is and is not an accurate simulation of true DNA fingerprinting.

Lesson Closure

Review the results of the activity with the students. What evidence has the DNA fingerprinting provided for each student's case? Be sure to discuss the fact that though the DNA fingerprinting places the suspect at the crime scene, it doesn't necessarily prove that the suspect is guilty of the crime.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Students may not realize that DNA analysis is a costly and time-consuming process. In fact, the simulation activity may reinforce this misconception, so be sure to address this issue. Actual DNA fingerprinting and analysis are more complex than the activity conducted in this lab.

Some students may believe that DNA analysis is proof of guilt, rather than just proof of a suspect's presence at the scene.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Completed DNA Fingerprinting worksheet

Variations and Extensions

If you have the time and equipment, have students isolate actual DNA from cheek cells.

If your school does not have electrophoresis equipment, you may have students participate in a virtual DNA fingerprinting lab. Links to several simulations of DNA fingerprinting of varying levels of complexity can be found at *Visible Proofs: Forensic Views of the Body* (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/visibleproofs/resources/weblinks.html>).

Discuss with students how DNA testing can also be used to exonerate convicted criminals. A list of individuals who have been cleared of criminal wrongdoing on the basis of DNA evidence can be found at NOVA (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sheppard/cleared.html>).

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NRC National Science Education Standards

The Molecular Basis of Heredity

In all organisms, the instructions for specifying the characteristics of the organism are carried in DNA, a large polymer formed from subunits of four kinds (A, G, C, and T). The chemical and structural properties of DNA explain how the genetic information that underlies heredity is both encoded in genes (as a string of molecular "letters") and replicated (by a templating mechanism). Each DNA molecule in a cell forms a single chromosome.

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Content Standards for Biology/Life Science

5. The genetic composition of cells can be altered by incorporation of exogenous DNA into the cells. As a basis for understanding this concept:
 - a. *Students know* the general structures and functions of DNA, RNA, and protein.
 - d.* *Students know* how basic DNA technology (restriction digestion by endonucleases, gel electrophoresis, ligation, and transformation) is used to construct recombinant DNA molecules.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Restriction Enzymes

Cut out and tape together the DNA base pair sequence on the next page. These two sequences are identical. Cut out the restriction enzyme cards. Pick two restriction enzymes to “digest” your DNA strand. Compare the cards to the DNA sequence and cut your DNA strand in the appropriate location. Tape the fragments into the spaces below:

Restriction Enzyme #1: _____

Restriction Enzyme #2: _____

Questions

1. How many fragments resulted from digestion with the first restriction enzyme? The second?
2. What would happen if you used both restriction enzymes to cut a DNA strand?
3. If you were given fragments of DNA that had been cut with EcoRI, how would you be able to tell if they had originally come from the same DNA as the strand you were given?

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

DNA Base Pair Sequences

Cut out the strips in each set and tape them together end to end, starting with the lightest strip and ending with the darkest strip.

A C C G A A T C C T G G A T C C A T A C C C G C G G T G
T G G C T T A G G T C C T A G G T A T G G G C G C C A C
A A T T C G G G A T C C A T C G A A T C T C C G C G G G
T T A A G C C C T A G G T A G C T T A G A G G C G C C C
A T C C G A T C C C G C T C G A T A G A A T T C C C T C
T A G G C T A G G G C G A G C T A T C T T A A G G G A G
A A C C G C G G A A T G G G A T C C C C G T G G A T C G
T T G G C G C C T T A C C C T A G G G G C A C C T A G C
A C A A T T T G A A T T C C G C G G T A T C G A G G A T
T G T T A A A C T T A A G G C G C C A T A G C T C C T A

A C C G A A T C C T G G A T C C A T A C C C G C G G T G
T G G C T T A G G T C C T A G G T A T G G G C G C C A C
A A T T C G G G A T C C A T C G A A T C T C C G C G G G
T T A A G C C C T A G G T A G C T T A G A G G C G C C C
A T C C G A T C C C G C T C G A T A G A A T T C C C T C
T A G G C T A G G G C G A G C T A T C T T A A G G G A G
A A C C G C G G A A T G G G A T C C C C G T G G A T C G
T T G G C G C C T T A C C C T A G G G G C A C C T A G C
A C A A T T T G A A T T C C G C G G T A T C G A G G A T
T G T T A A A C T T A A G G C G C C A T A G C T C C T A

Restriction Enzyme Sites

Cut out restriction enzyme cards. Pick two to “digest” your DNA strand. Compare the card to the DNA sequence and cut your DNA strand in the appropriate location.

TaqI <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> TCGA</td></tr> <tr><td>AGCT </td></tr> </table>	TCGA	AGCT	BamHI <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> GGATCC</td></tr> <tr><td>CCTAGG </td></tr> </table>	GGATCC	CCTAGG	SacII <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>CCGCGG </td></tr> <tr><td>GGC GCC</td></tr> </table>	CCGCGG	GGC GCC	EcoRI <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> GAATTC</td></tr> <tr><td>CTTAAG </td></tr> </table>	GAATTC	CTTAAG
TCGA											
AGCT											
GGATCC											
CCTAGG											
CCGCGG											
GGC GCC											
GAATTC											
CTTAAG											

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

CSI: DNA Fingerprinting

Crime Investigation Summary

At the beginning of our investigation, anyone and everyone at school was a suspect. Through careful examination of evidence, you have now narrowed down your suspect list to just two (or three). A DNA test will be your final, conclusive piece of evidence. Collect a DNA sample from each of your suspects. In this lab, you will see if DNA left at the scene matches any of your suspects.

Materials

- _____ 4 μ l DNA from crime scene in a microfuge tube
- _____ 4 μ l DNA from suspect #1 in a microfuge tube
- _____ 4 μ l DNA from suspect #2 in a microfuge tube
- _____ 4 μ l DNA from suspect #3 in a microfuge tube
- _____ Restriction enzyme
- _____ 2x multicore[®] restriction buffer
- _____ Loading dye
- _____ 1% agarose gel
- _____ 1 liter 1X TBE or TAE Buffer
- _____ Carolina Blue[®] stain (or ethidium bromide and UV source)
- _____ 0.5–10 μ l micropipettors and tips
- _____ 37°C water bath
- _____ 1 set of electrophoresis equipment
- _____ 1 microtube rack

Procedures—Day 1

1. Get your DNA samples, restriction enzyme, and 2X restriction buffer from your teacher.
2. Using your micropipettor and FRESH tip for each tube, add 4 μ l of restriction enzyme to each DNA sample.
3. Using a FRESH tip each time, add 8 μ l of 2X restriction buffer to each sample.
4. Mix each sample by flicking the bottom tip of the microfuge tube with your fingertip.
5. Incubate your samples in a 37°C water bath overnight.

Procedures—Day 2

6. Get an agarose gel, 1X TBE buffer, 1X loading dye, and an electrophoresis gel box from your teacher.
7. Place the gel in the gel box, and fill the gel box with 1X TBE buffer solution until the entire gel is submerged. (Pour from either end of the gel box, rather than directly onto the gel.)
8. Set your micropipettor to 10 μ l.
9. Practice loading the gel
 - a. Draw 10 μ l (microliters) of 1X loading dye into your pipettor. (Make sure there are no air bubbles in the tip!)

3. Is this absolute proof that the suspect is guilty? Why or why not?

Subunit 2—Crime Scene Investigations

Field Notes and Interviews

LESSON 2.6

English Language Arts

Time

2–3 class sessions

Materials

Equipment

- Interviewees
- Internet
- Tape recorder (optional)
- Video recorder (optional)
- Small, bound notebook - one per student
- Writing Field Notes student worksheet
- Conducting Field Interviews student worksheet

Resources

“Veteran Reporter Describes The Art of the Interview”
(<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Apr/24-133420.html>)

Lesson Timing

Students will need various skills and background information before they investigate the crime scene that is part of this unit. Therefore, it is helpful for the students to participate in this lesson the week before the actual crime takes place (or earlier). Some teachers teach the interview skills first, and then have students interview a relative at home about their family history.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Take useful and factual field notes of observations and interviews.
- Understand the difference between open- and closed-ended questions and their relation to developing a fluid conversational interview.
- Construct effective witness interview questions and use follow up questioning techniques.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

Ask students to recall familiar television shows where crimes are neatly solved in an hour. In the fictional shows, police officers only work on one case at a time and investigate all aspects of the case. Law enforcement personnel are shown in the field, but not writing up their reports. Tell students that in reality, field notes are extremely important as they are the official record of the crime. It may not be obvious what information is important to solving or prosecuting a crime until long after the crime scene is cleaned up and the witnesses are unavailable. Many crimes take months or even years to investigate and prosecute, and involve dozens of people playing different roles. This makes a detailed written record essential.

Inform students that in this lesson, they will practice recording field notes from observations and witness interviews. Both activities require thoughtful note taking. In addition, a successfully executed interview involves perceptive listening and questioning. Listening skills are critical because they allow the interviewer to ask relevant follow-up questions and gain important information that the witness would not have otherwise given.

Lesson Development

Introduce Field Notes/Field Notebook

Ask students to imagine arguing a case in court. How do you convince a jury that events happened the way you say they did, when none of the jury was actually present at the crime? The answer is that you present evidence to support your argument, in the form of physical artifacts and documented observations. If there is no documentation of an event, then it is as if it never happened. This is why it is so important for police officers to write complete field notes and to keep them

organized at all times. The conviction of a guilty person or the release of an innocent one depends on it.

If police documents are lost or incomplete, the defense attorney may raise questions about them to create doubts in the minds of jurors during cross-examination. If legal documents are lost, the missing information can make the difference between an attorney winning and losing a case. These real-life situations are a great way to encourage students to keep their own notebooks and school work organized and in order, as those skills will be important in all legal careers.

Pass out **Student Worksheet – Writing Field Notes**. Explain to students that they will be writing down factual information about what happened during a crime investigation and a shift, just as police officers do. Go over the information in the handout and make sure that all students understand the required information in good field notes. Require that students keep a bound notebook for their notes.

Field Notes Activity

Pick a small area of your classroom, such as a small cabinet, and arrange it as though it was ransacked in a burglary. Ask the class to observe the area as though they were police officers called to the scene of the crime. Students should then take field notes for 5-10 minutes, following the guidelines on the handout. Tell students that they will have an opportunity to interview witnesses later, but at this time they are taking field notes on their observations. When they have finished, ask students to compare their notes with a partner and exchange feedback on what was done well and what needs more work, as stated in the worksheet.

Discuss the level of detail necessary for good field notes, reminding students that investigations often last for weeks and investigators cannot rely on their memory. Also discuss the difference between facts and opinion or conjecture, and how the two should be separate in field notes. Only facts belong in a police report, which is where the information in field notes is eventually presented. Police reports are practiced in another lesson in this unit.

Allow students time to improve their field notes of the incident scene after receiving feedback, if appropriate. Student should keep these notes for the next lesson, *Writing the Police Report*.

Introduce Field Interviews with Notes

Remind students that interviews are an important way to get information about an incident. Good interviewers develop a feeling of mutual trust, ask well-designed questions, listen carefully to all responses, and gain more useful information with follow up questions. A poorly executed interview is a wasted opportunity to get facts that are otherwise unavailable.

As a class, brainstorm general questions to include in a witness interview. Write students' responses on a chalkboard for reference. Assist students with generating effective questions and explain the difference between open- and closed-ended questions. An example of a closed-ended question would be: "Did you see the crime happen?" It elicits a one-word answer, either "yes" or "no." The question "What did you see that day?" should lead to a detailed answer that provides useful information and permits follow-up questions.

Interview or Interrogation?

An **interview** is the collecting of information from someone who knows facts about the case the officer is investigating.

An **interrogation** is the process of formally interviewing a suspect.

Ask students how they feel when they come home, and the first thing their parents do is pepper them with questions like, “How was your day?” “What did you learn today in school?” “Where did you go after school?” “Who did you go with?” Usually students will share that they do not like to be asked so many questions and as a result do not answer their parents fully. This is an example of how important it is to make the interviewee comfortable, both in terms of personal rapport and the setting of the interview. Witnesses may be in different emotional states after seeing an alleged crime, and a proper setting and tone for an interview helps witnesses give more information.

Pass out **Student Worksheet: Conducting Field Interviews and Note Taking during Field Interviews**. Have students read the first page of the worksheet. Go over the main stages of an interview. Again, students will need to take field notes to document the information they learn from the witness. Video or audio recordings are also useful forms of interview documentation, but discuss with students why it is important for the interviewer to take good notes.

Role Play

Have a student volunteer pose as a witness to the ransacking and burglary that was staged in the classroom for the field notes activity. Interview him or her in front of the class; the student can make up the answers to the questions while trying to act like a realistic witness. Have the rest of the class take notes on the interview, as well as notice what you (the interviewer) do wrong and what you do right. In your questioning, provide examples of both open- and closed-ended questions, missed opportunities to ask follow-up questions, and effective follow-up questions. Students should keep their interview notes of use in the next lesson, *Writing the Police Report*.

Activity in Pairs

Have students practice creating the three different types of questions listed in the worksheet. They can then interview a partner with field notes about an interesting subject matter such as: What was the funniest thing that ever happened to you? Give students time 5 to 10 minutes each to conduct the witness interviews with field notes, following the stages detailed in the worksheet. Afterwards, have a few volunteers share their partners’ stories with the class. Students can also see if their field notes are clear and detailed enough by asking the class to reconstruct the funny story only from the notes.

Lesson Closure

Ask students how they felt while writing field notes and conducting the interview. Tell students that all of them will have to document information in some form in their adult lives. Most of them will be interviewed or will conduct an interview one day, and preparation and practice makes the process easier. Ask students to share situations in their current lives where they will be able to benefit from the observing, writing, listening and questioning skills they are developing here.

Suggested Application of Lessons 2.6 and 2.7 during the Crime Investigation for this Unit (most likely done in the Foundations of Law Class):

- a. *Field notes* Students will write down the basic information about the murder in their field notebook covered in the student handout **Writing Field Notes**. After writing their notes, students should collaborate in groups to make sure that all information was covered, and help each other to fill in the missing information.
- b. It is recommended that the teacher or police officer helping the class review the field notes for completeness and authenticity.
- c. Interviews with witnesses and suspects can be done during the Law Class or the Language Arts classes. It depends on the witnesses' schedule and availability.
- d. Students should follow the protocol from Conducting Field Interviews with Note Taking: Listen, Take notes and Question, and Confirm. Drafts of the notes should be checked by other students in groups or with partners.
- e. After the notes have been reviewed and witness statements taken, students can work on the **Graphic Organizer**. It is recommended that students work with a partner or in small groups to help to fill out this information. Note that section 2 – Identification of the Crime – will be covered by the Foundations of Law Class (Unit 3). Students may not have enough knowledge to complete that section yet, depending on the schedule you use to implement the unit.
- f. Draft 1 – Narrative Report – Once students have completed their graphic organizer, they are ready to start on the first draft of the narrative report. If possible, have an industry professional review the first draft for authenticity, before a final draft is done.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Field notes

Interview notes

Variations and Extensions

Invite a police officer to speak to the class about effective field notes from scene investigation and witness interviews.

Bring a speaker to class and have students pose interview questions from student panels.

Watch and evaluate television interviews on NBC's *Today Show* or other news programs.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts

4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
5. Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
7. Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
12. Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

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Content Standards for English Language Arts 9—10


Listening and Speaking

- 2.3 Apply appropriate interviewing techniques:
- a. Prepare and ask relevant questions.
 - b. Make notes of responses.
 - c. Use language that conveys maturity, sensitivity, and respect.
 - d. Respond correctly and effectively to questions.
 - e. Demonstrate knowledge of the subject or organization.
 - f. Compile and report responses.
 - g. Evaluate the effectiveness of the interview.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Writing Field Notes

How do officers collect evidence?

1. Write all field notes in a small, bound **notebook**. Never erase notes or tear out pages of the notebook! During a trial, an officer may be questioned about his or her investigative report, and having field notes increases the reliability of the report. Ripped out pages can be a problem for the investigating officer. The defense attorney can use the fact that pages are missing to weaken the investigator's credibility during cross-examination.
- 
2. Field notes are made at the incident scene or shortly after leaving it. They are the police officer's record of the information needed for the report and provide a better history than just the officer's memory.
 3. As you conduct your investigation, carefully record your observations. Field notes include information about the questions: **what, when, where, who, how and why**. At a minimum, they should include the following:
 - _____ a. Date and time of the incident, and the date and time of the dispatch call
 - _____ b. The exact location of the incident
 - _____ c. Victims' names and addresses and what they said during the field interviews
 - _____ d. Witnesses' names and addresses and what they said during the field interviews
 - _____ e. Suspects' names and addresses and what they said during the field interviews
 - _____ f. What was actually seen, done or said
 - _____ g. What major conditions were present when you arrived?
 - _____ h. What happened first, second, third?
 - _____ i. How was the evidence handled?
 4. Use the guidelines above as you investigate and write your field notes. Once you think you are finished, trade notebooks with your partner. Have your partner check off the appropriate sections to check for completion.
 5. Provide constructive feedback to each other about the strengths and weaknesses of your notes. You may help each other by providing additional notes for each other. You may also need to go back and conduct further investigative work.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Conducting Field Interviews with Note Taking

Step 1. Set the Right Environment

- a. Separate the people to be interviewed. Interview each person individually in a setting where the person is comfortable and will not be interrupted or distracted.
- b. Put the person at ease. Interviews can make people nervous.
- c. Show a personal interest in the person and establish rapport. Try to create a personal relationship rather than acting like a police officer who only cares about the relevant facts. Ask the person how they are doing.
- d. Let him/her do the talking.

Step 2. Conduct the Interview

The interview is done in the following stages:

First stage: *Listen carefully.*

Do not take notes at this stage. Simply listen to what the person has to say about the incident and think about what questions you would like to ask.

Second stage: *Take notes and ask open-ended questions.*

Ask the person to repeat his/her account of what happened, this time asking probing, open-ended questions and follow up questions to clarify the information. Take notes during this stage.

- a. Collect the person's information, including name; address; phone numbers at home, work and cell.
- b. During the second stage, it is very important that you ask open-ended questions, not leading or close-ended questions.

Closed-ended question: Only requires a **yes** or **no** answer

Example: Was she short?

Leading question: Suggests the answer or contains the information the officer is looking for

Example: She was too short to have climbed the fence, right?

Open-ended question: Hands control of the answer to the witness and requires the witness to think and respond, giving their own version of what happened

Example: What was her height?

Third stage: *Confirm the information.*

Review your notes with the person and ask them to verify the information. Clarify and add to your notes during this stage.

Conducting Field Interviews with Note Taking (Continued)

PARTNER ACTIVITY: *You are going to interview your partner about the funniest thing that ever happened to him/her. You will practice establishing rapport, following the different stages of the interview, and asking three types of questions. Please follow the template below which you can also use in your field notebook when conducting witness interviews.*

Step 1: Set the Right Environment.

Put the person at ease. Establish rapport with the interviewee (your partner).

Step 2: Conduct the Interview

First stage: *Listen to your partner tell the story.*

Second stage: *Take notes and ask open-ended questions.*

Ask the person to repeat his/her account of what happened.

Collect identifying information:

Name _____

Address (inc. city/zip) _____

Phone numbers _____

Driver's License _____

Height _____ Weight _____ (can approximate)

Closed question: Only requires a yes or no answer

Example you used: _____

Leading question: Suggests the answer or contains the information you are looking for

Example you used: _____

Open question: Hands control of the answer to the witness and requires the witness to think and respond, giving their own version of what happened

Example you used: _____

Take notes below like you would in your field notebook.

Subunit 2—Crime Scene Investigations

Writing the Police Report

LESSON 2.7

English Language Arts

Time

2 class sessions

Materials

Equipment

- Student field notes from Lesson 2.6
- Writing Police Reports handout
- Sample Police Report Narratives handout
- Active vs. Passive Voice worksheet and answer key
- Fact, Opinion, and Conclusion worksheet and answer key
- Graphic Organizer - Narrative Police Report worksheet
- Law Enforcement Crime/Incident Report handout

Prior Student Learning

Students should already have completed Lesson 2.6: Field Notes and Interviews.

Lesson Timing

Students will need various skills and background information before they investigate the crime scene that is part of this unit. Therefore, it is helpful for the students to participate in this lesson the week before the actual crime takes place (or earlier).

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Describe the difference between fact and opinion.
- Recognize the difference between active and passive voice and construct sentences in active voice.
- Write a narrative technical report.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

In the previous language arts lesson, *Field Notes and Interviews*, students documented evidence from observations and interviews as notes. The next step in the documentation process for police officers is to produce an official report that goes to their supervisors and the attorneys that ultimately use it as evidence in a court case. Inform students that they will be producing police reports to the same standards as real police officers. A good police report demands the same skills that make for good technical writing of any type – attention to audience, concise and accurate language, active voice, and clear organization. Again, the success or failure of an investigation and subsequent prosecution depends on the quality of the evidence as documented in reports.

Lesson Development

Introduce Structure of Police Reports

Pass out the student handout: **Law Enforcement Crime/Incident Report**, and tell students that they will be creating a report using this form as a template. It is evident from the form that there are two main parts to a police report. The face sheet provides a brief synopsis of the incident and lists relevant data in preset boxes. The narrative portion of the report includes a complete accounting of the incident and witness interviews.

Pass out the student handout: **Writing Police Reports**. Ask the class to read the entire handout silently. Then divide the class up into pairs or groups of three. Have the pairs or groups of students present summaries of small portions of the handout, so that the class hears all of the important guidelines by the end of the presentations.

Have the students read the student handout: **Sample Police Report Narratives**. Point out the simple, unambiguous language that is used to state all of the facts of the case.

Active Voice and Facts vs. Opinions

As the police report guidelines state and the sample narrative demonstrates, students must write in an active voice and state only facts in their reports. To reinforce these skills, have students complete the following worksheets: **Active vs. Passive Voice** and **Fact, Opinion and Conclusion**. Allow students to complete the activities with a partner or in small groups. Review the correct answers as a class.

Practice Police Report

After students have an understanding of stating facts in an active voice, ask them to write a short police report narrative using the field notes they produced in the previous lesson, *Field Notes and Interviews*. In that lesson, students observed a mock scene of a burglary and listened to you interview a witness. Make sure that students recognize how important good field notes are to producing a police report; without the notes taken in the previous lesson, students would have had to rely on memory to write the final report that is used as evidence in court.

After students have completed a first draft of their narrative, have students exchange their work with a partner and conduct a peer review. If possible, have a police officer review and give feedback on student reports.

Lesson Closure

Ask students to reflect on what was most difficult for them to do well during the field notes and police report writing process. Emphasize the major role that report writing plays in a police officer's responsibilities. Remind students that the skills they practiced in this lesson will help them write better in any situation, not just the specific case of police reports. Brainstorm other careers and situations where technical writing is necessary.

Suggested Application of Lessons 2.6 and 2.7 during the Crime Investigation for this Unit (most likely done in the Foundations of Law Class):

- a. *Field notes* Students will write down the basic information about the murder in their field notebook covered in the student handout **Writing Field Notes**. After writing their notes, students should collaborate in groups to make sure that all information was covered, and help each other to fill in the missing information.
- b. It is recommended that the teacher or police officer helping the class review the field notes for completeness and authenticity.
- c. Interviews with witnesses and suspects can be done during the Law Class or the Language Arts classes. It depends on the witnesses' schedule and availability.
- d. Students should follow the protocol from **Conducting Field Interviews with Note Taking**: Listen, Take notes and Question, and Confirm. Drafts of the notes should be checked by other students in groups or with partners.
- e. After the notes have been reviewed and witness statements taken, students can work on the **Graphic Organizer – Narrative Police Report**. It is recommended that students work with a partner or in small groups to help to fill out this information. Note that section 2 – Identification of the Crime – will be covered by the Foundations of Law Class (Unit 3). Students may not have enough knowledge to complete that section yet, depending on the schedule you use to implement the unit.
- f. Draft 1 – Narrative Report – Once students have completed their graphic organizer, they are ready to start on the first draft of the narrative report. If possible, have an industry professional review the first draft for authenticity, before a final draft is done.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Student worksheet: Active vs. Passive Voice

Student worksheet: Fact, Opinion and Conclusion

Police report narrative

Variations and Extensions

Invite a police officer to speak to the class about effective police reports and the consequences of poorly written reports.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts

4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
5. Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
7. Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
12. Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

CALIFORNIA

Standards for English Language Arts Grades 9—10

Writing – 1.0 Writing Strategies – Organization and Focus

- 1.2 Use precise language, action verbs, sensory details, appropriate modifiers, and the active rather than the passive voice.

Research and Technology

- 1.3 Use clear research questions and suitable research methods (e.g., library, electronic media, personal interview) to elicit and present evidence from primary and secondary sources.

Writing Standards

- 2.6 Write technical documents (e.g., a manual on rules of behavior for conflict resolution, procedures for conducting a meeting, minutes of a meeting):
 - a. Report information and convey ideas logically and correctly.
 - b. Offer detailed and accurate specifications.

CALIFORNIA State Career Technical Standards

Standards for Law and Government Services Pathway

- B4.0 Students understand methods to acquire, analyze, and disseminate information and interpret laws to facilitate clear and positive communication:
- B4.1 Understand specialized investigative techniques, devices, and equipment to enhance investigation regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Writing Police Reports



The investigating officer's reports are reviewed by a supervising officer (the investigator's boss). If the report is organized and well-written, then it can be signed off by the supervising officer. If it is sloppy and poorly written, then it has to be sent back to the officer for revision. This wastes the supervisor's time and is a poor reflection of the officer's skill and professionalism. Use these guidelines to write good police reports.

There are two parts to a police report: the face sheet and the narrative.

1. In the **face sheet**, you will find the basic information and facts of the crime to help organize the case. You need to correctly fill in all of the boxes and check the appropriate check boxes. Look at the Law Enforcement Crime/Incident Report form to get a sense of the information required.
2. The **narrative** portion has different parts: the narrative report and the witness statements. After you have conducted your investigation and interviews and reviewed your field notes, you will write the narrative report.

Police reports must have the following characteristics to be useful for detectives, prosecutors, and defense attorneys:

- **Accurate, Specific, and Detailed**
- **Concise: Written clearly without extra words or phrases**
- **Objective: Use facts, not opinions**
- **Active voice**
- **Formal Tone: No slang**
- **Correct grammar and spelling**
- **Structured in chronological order**

Reports must contain the following information:

1. Answers to these main questions

a. Who

- ✓ Who were the police officers?
- ✓ Who are the victims, witnesses and suspects?
- ✓ Who discovered the crime?
- ✓ Who heard or saw anything important?
- ✓ Who had access to the crime scene?

b. What

- ✓ What actually happened?
- ✓ What crime was committed?
- ✓ What evidence was obtained?
- ✓ What happened to the evidence?

c. Where

- ✓ Where did the crime happen?
- ✓ Where were the victim, witnesses and suspects?
- ✓ Where was the evidence found and stored?

d. When

- ✓ When did the crime occur and when was it discovered?
- ✓ When did officers arrive?

e. Why

- ✓ Why was the crime committed?
- ✓ Why did the suspect commit the crime?

f. How

- ✓ How was the crime committed?
- ✓ How was the entry made and how did the suspect leave?

2. **Identification of the crime**, including the common name of the crime and the specific statutory code for the crime.
3. **Victim/Witness Statements**
4. **Evidence Narrative**, including everything the officer saw and did at the scene of the crime. Police report narratives are always written in chronological order so that there is never a need to back up to explain anything. At a minimum, include descriptions of the following:
 - Arrival at scene, primary officer's statement
 - Security procedures
 - The incident scene
 - Marking, photography, collection of evidence
 - Catalog of Evidence (list of photos, prints, blood, physical evidence)

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Sample Police Report Narratives

EXAMPLE 1

I responded to XYZ Police Station lobby regarding an identity theft report call. Upon my arrival I talked to the victim, who stated that sometime between March, 2007 and March, 2009, person(s) unknown used his personal information to open a cell phone account with XYZ Company.

The victim stated that he did not know where exactly the account was opened, but that it had to be opened in the last two years. He stated that he last checked his credit report approximately two years ago and this account did not show up.

The victim was made aware of the fraudulent account when he received a collections letter (see attached) in the mail dated 3/16/09. The letter states that he owes \$663.48 for the account.

The victim stated that he did not open this account. Nor did he authorize anybody to use his personal information to open the account on his behalf.

A report memo was issued.

EXAMPLE 2

We conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle with no license plates displayed. Upon contacting Suspect Doe, John (sole occupant), we noticed that there was a screwdriver sticking out of the ignition. The vehicle's front passenger side window wing was shattered, which was indicative of a possible entry point.

We asked Doe for his driver's license and he told us that he did not have one. We detained him, pending an unlicensed driver investigation. We mirandized Doe and he understood his rights and agreed to speak to us about this incident without an attorney present.

A check of Doe's driver license status (via DMV/CLETS) revealed that he has no license issued. A check of Doe's criminal history (via Wanted Persons) revealed that he was on parole for car theft.

We asked Doe who the owner of the car was and he told us it belonged to his friend (Fred). We asked Doe how long he has been friends with "Fred." Doe replied, "Ten years." We asked Doe for "Fred's" last name and he did not know. We asked Doe for "Fred's" home address and phone number. Doe told us that he forgot "Fred's" number and did not know where he lived. Doe admitted to possessing the vehicle for two days, but could not tell us how he was going to return it to Fred.

We asked Doe why there was a screwdriver in the vehicle's ignition. Doe stated that he did not have a key and that was the only way he could start the car. We pointed out that the vehicle's window wing was smashed. Doe told us that it was in that condition when he obtained the car. We asked Doe if he believed that the above mentioned observations indicated that the car was stolen. Doe acknowledged that the vehicle was suspicious, but denied stealing the car.

A check of the vehicle's registered owner (via DMV/CLETS) revealed that it was unregistered. Based on the totality of circumstances, we formed the opinion that Doe was in possession and driving a stolen car. We arrested him for the indicated charges with the approval of Watch Commander Lt. Smith. We took photos for evidence. We impounded the vehicle. We transported and booked Doe at Location XYZ.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Active vs. Passive Voice

The active voice is always used in police reports. Learn about the active voice in this worksheet.

In the **active voice**, the person or thing that *does the action* is the subject of the sentence, and comes first. For example, "Officer Jimenez arrested Mr. Lin."

In the **passive voice**, the person or thing *being acted upon* is the subject, and the acting person or thing comes second. For example, "Mr. Lin was arrested by Officer Jimenez."

More examples:

ACTIVE VOICE: The officer transported the suspect to the station.

PASSIVE VOICE: The suspect was transported to the station by the officer.

ACTIVE VOICE: Officer Jones noticed a car speeding down Main Street.

PASSIVE VOICE: A car speeding down Main Street was noticed by Officer Jones.

a. *Practice: Decide if the following sentences are active or passive voice. Write an "A" for active or "P" for passive.*

_____ The captain read the morning report.

_____ The meeting was called by the chief.

b. *Change the following passive voice sentences to active voice sentences.*

1. The suspect was founding hiding in the bedroom closet by Officer Smith.

2. It was determined by the coroner that the time of death was approximately 3:30 pm.

3. The suspect was informed of her Miranda rights by Officer Jimenez.

4. Fingerprints were found on the bedroom window.

Active vs. Passive Voice – Teacher Answer Key

The active voice is always used in police reports. Learn about the active voice in this worksheet.

In the **active voice**, the person or thing that *does the action* is the subject of the sentence, and comes first. For example, "Officer Jimenez arrested Mr. Lin."

In the **passive voice**, the person or thing *being acted upon* is the subject, and the acting person or thing comes second. For example, "Mr. Lin was arrested by Officer Jimenez."

More examples:

ACTIVE VOICE: The officer transported the suspect to the station.

PASSIVE VOICE: The suspect was transported to the station by the officer.

ACTIVE VOICE: Officer Jones noticed a car speeding down Main Street.

PASSIVE VOICE: A car speeding down Main Street was noticed by Officer Jones.

- a. *Practice: Decide if the following sentences are active or passive voice. Write an "A" for active or "P" for passive.*

 A The captain read the morning report.

 P The meeting was called by the chief.

- b. *Change the following passive voice sentences to active voice sentences.*

ANSWERS MAY VARY.

1. The suspect was founding hiding in the bedroom closet by Officer Smith.

Officer Smith found the suspect hiding in the bedroom closet.

2. It was determined by the coroner that the time of death was approximately 3:30 pm.

The coroner determined the time of death was approximately 3:30 p.m.

3. The suspect was informed of her Miranda rights by Officer Jimenez.

Officer Jimenez informed the witness of her Miranda rights.

4. Fingerprints were found on the bedroom window.

I found fingerprints on the bedroom window.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Fact, Opinion and Conclusion

When writing your narrative report, why do you think it is important to distinguish between a **fact**, an **opinion**, and a **conclusion**. Police reports establish the facts of a case. Opinions and conclusions should be labeled as such in a police report, and used rarely. Learn how to recognize each of these types of statements with this worksheet.

	Fact	Opinion	Conclusion
Definition	a statement that can be proven true; what is known to have happened	a belief or judgment that cannot be proven; a personal view or attitude about what happened or might have happened	a meaning given to the facts about a situation or issue
Example	John Smith’s leg was broken. He did not speak for several minutes.	John Smith was shocked that his leg was broken. It was an awful injury.	John Smith was not able to speak because he was in so much pain due to his broken leg.
Write your own examples			

Label each of the following as fact, opinion or conclusion.

- _____ Mr. Jackson is poor and hungry. He could not resist the opportunity to steal the car.
- _____ Mr. Jackson stated that his salary is \$15,000 a year. He has five children. The stolen car has an estimated value of \$45,000.
- _____ Mr. Jackson stole the car to feed himself and his children.
- _____ Selena made a fast move with her left hand toward her boot, and said, “I’m going to kill you!” The officer used deadly force because he feared for his life.
- _____ Selena decided she was going to stab the officer and then attempted to reach for a weapon in her boot.
- _____ Selena made a fast move with her left hand toward her boot. She said, “I’m going to kill you!”

Fact, Opinion and Conclusion Teacher Key

When writing your narrative report, why do you think it is important to distinguish between a **fact**, an **opinion**, and a **conclusion**. Police reports establish the facts of a case. Opinions and conclusions should be labeled as such in a police report, and used rarely. Learn how to recognize each of these types of statements with this worksheet.

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Example	John Smith’s leg was broken. He did not speak for several minutes.	John Smith was shocked that his leg was broken. It was an awful injury.	John Smith was not able to speak because he was in so much pain due to his broken leg.
Write your own examples			

Label each of the following as fact, opinion or conclusion.

1. O Mr. Jackson is poor and hungry. He could not resist the opportunity to steal the car.
2. F Mr. Jackson stated that his salary is \$15,000 a year. He has five children. The stolen car has an estimated value of \$45,000.
3. C Mr. Jackson stole the car to feed himself and his children.
4. C Selena made a fast move with her left hand toward her boot, and said, “I’m going to kill you!” The officer used deadly force because he feared for his life.
5. O
Selena decided she was going to stab the officer and then attempted to reach for a weapon in her boot.
6. F
Selena made a fast move with her left hand toward her boot. She said, “I’m going to kill you!”

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Graphic Organizer – Narrative Police Report

<p><u>1. a. WHO?</u> Who were the police officers? Who are the victims, witnesses and suspects? Who discovered the crime? Who heard or saw anything important? Who was able to get into the crime scene?</p>	
<p><u>1.b. WHAT?</u> What actually happened? What crime was committed? What evidence was obtained? What happened to the evidence?</p>	
<p><u>1.c. WHERE?</u> Where did the crime happen? Where were the victim, witnesses and suspects? Where was the evidence found and stored?</p>	
<p><u>1.d. WHEN?</u> When did the crime occur and when was it discovered? When did officers arrive?</p>	
<p><u>1.e. WHY?</u> Why was the crime committed? Why did the suspect commit the crime?</p>	
<p><u>1.f. HOW?</u> How was the crime committed? How was the entry made and how did the suspect leave?</p>	

Graphic Organizer – Narrative Police Report (continued)

<p><u>2. IDENTIFICATION OF THE CRIME:</u> including the common name of the crime and the specific statutory code for the crime.</p>	
<p><u>3. VICTIM/WITNESS STATEMENTS</u></p>	
<p><u>4. EVIDENCE NARRATIVE PORTION,</u> including everything the evidence tech officer saw and did at the scene of the crime (which means all the CSI procedures, not just the one your own group did). Always written in chronological order (never back up to explain anything).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival at scene, primary officer’s statement • Security procedures • Description of scene, describe scene in order from west door to east wall • Marking, photography, collection of evidence • Catalog of Evidence (list of photos, prints, blood, physical evidence) 	

- Face Page
- Continuation
- Supplemental

LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME / INCIDENT REPORT

L O C A T I O N	1. DR No.	2. City Code	3. Crime/Classification			4. Detail		5. More Persons <input type="checkbox"/>		
	6. Day of the Week /Date/ Time of Occurrence			7. Day of the Week /Date/ Time Reported			8. Employee No.			
	9. Address/Locations of Occurrence					City		Zip		
# 1 V I C T I M / W I T	10. <input type="checkbox"/> PRI <input type="checkbox"/> VIC <input type="checkbox"/> WIT <input type="checkbox"/> MSP <input type="checkbox"/> RUN <input type="checkbox"/> SUS <input type="checkbox"/> LEAD <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER									
	11. Name (Last)		12. First		13. Middle	14. Race	15. Sex (M/F)	16. Age	17. Date of Birth	18. Driver License No.
	19. Home Address				City		State	Zip	Home Telephone w/ area code	
	20. Employed by or school				City		State	Zip	Work Telephone w/ area code	
	21. Hair	22. Eyes		23. Height		24. Weight pounds		25. AKA/Maiden Names		26. Social Security No.
	27. Further Description (Scars, Tattoos, Mannerisms, Clothing, Etc.)							28. Booking or Cite No.:		
# 2 V I C T I M / W I T	29. <input type="checkbox"/> PRI <input type="checkbox"/> VIC <input type="checkbox"/> WIT <input type="checkbox"/> MSP <input type="checkbox"/> RUN <input type="checkbox"/> SUS <input type="checkbox"/> LEAD <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER									
	30. Name (Last)		31. First		32. Middle	33. Race	34. Sex (M/F)	35. Age	36. Date of Birth	37. Driver License No.
	38. Home Address				City		State	Zip	Home Telephone w/ area code	
	39. Employed by or school				City		State	Zip	Work Telephone w/ area code	
	40. Hair	41. Eyes		42. Height		43. Weight pounds		44. AKA/Maiden Names		45. Social Security No.
	46. Further Description (Scars, Tattoos, Mannerisms, Clothing, Etc.)							47. Booking or Cite No.:		
# 3 V I C T I M / W I T	48. <input type="checkbox"/> PRI <input type="checkbox"/> VIC <input type="checkbox"/> WIT <input type="checkbox"/> MSP <input type="checkbox"/> RUN <input type="checkbox"/> SUS <input type="checkbox"/> LEAD <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER									
	49. Name (Last)		50. First		51. Middle	52. Race	53. Sex (M/F)	54. Age	55. Date of Birth	56. Driver License No.
	57. Home Address				City		State	Zip	Home Telephone w/ area code	
	58. Employed by or school				City		State	Zip	Work Telephone w/ area code	
	59. Hair	60. Eyes		61. Height		62. Weight pounds		63. AKA/Maiden Names		64. Social Security No.
	65. Further Description (Scars, Tattoos, Mannerisms, Clothing, Etc.)							66. Booking or Cite No.:		
V E H I C L E	67. Veh/Ves <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> Vict		68. Lic. No.		State	69. Year	70. Make	71. Model	72. Body Style	73. Color
	74. Status <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Impound <input type="checkbox"/> Stored		75. Registered Owner (Last, First Name)			76. Registered Owner Address: City State Zip				
	77. Towed to or released to?					78. Who has keys?				
	79. Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		80. Disposition of Evidence		81. Missing			82. Damaged		

83. Brief Synopsis of Incident				
84. Reporting Deputy (Print)	85. Date/ Time Written	86. Approving Supv. (Print)	87. Date	88. Page of

- Continuation
 Supplemental

LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME / INCIDENT REPORT

I N F O	1. DR No.	2. City Code	3. Crime/Classification		4. Detail	5. Reclassification <input type="checkbox"/>
	6. Victim name Last First Middle		7. Date Original Report		8. Employee No.	
	9. Address/Locations of Occurrence City ST Zip			10. Suspect's Name Last First Middle		
	11. Property Description: Impounded; Recovered; Found; Lost; Stolen; Article; Quantity; Brand/Make/Manufacturer's Model No.; Serial Number; Miscellaneous Description, Location Where Taken; Value; Include Total Loss: LIST IN FOLLOWING ORDER: A) Currency; B) Jewelry; C) Furs; D) Vehicles; E) Office Equipment; F) Radio, TVs, etc.; G) Firearms; H) Household Goods; I) Misc.					
	12. Recovered Property: \$					

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13.

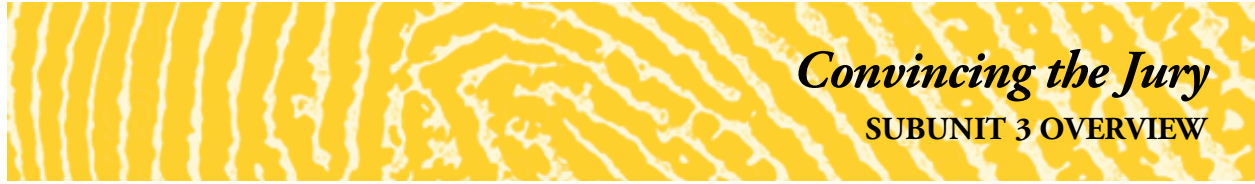
14. Departing Deputy (Print)

15. Date/ Time Written

16. Approving Supv. (Print)

17. Date

18. Page of



Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Subunit Goals

Subunit 3 explores how forensic science is used in various real world scenarios. In World History, students study war crime investigations and how the use of forensic science has provided evidence of crimes against humanity that might otherwise never be known. In English Language Arts, students finish the unit by compiling their evidence and analysis from the crime scene into a case against their suspect.

Subunit Key Questions

- What are war crimes and crimes against humanity? (World History)
- How is forensic science used in bringing war criminals to justice? (World History)
- Who is the murderer, and what evidence do you have of his or her guilt? How do you convince others that you know the guilty party? (English Language Arts)

Lesson Summaries

Lesson	Subject	Description	Class sessions
3.1	World History	<i>Gathering Evidence, Bringing Justice</i> Students examine events and issues associated with war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the role forensic science plays in bringing war criminals to justice.	1–2
3.2	English Language Arts	<i>Presentation to the Supervising Lieutenant</i> Students synthesize the evidence from their crime scene investigations to draw conclusions about the circumstances of the murder. Students present their case in a persuasive essay.	2-3

Subunit 3—Convincing the Jury

Gathering Evidence, Bringing Justice

LESSON 3.1

World History

Time

1–2 class sessions, 50 minutes each

Resources

- Newspaper articles about recent war crimes and International Court of Justice investigations
- The Nuremberg Principles
- The Nuremberg Code
- Excerpts from *The Bone Woman* by Clea Koff (optional)

Prior Student Learning

Students should be studying or have studied World War II and its aftermath.

Essential Question for This Unit

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in bringing criminal charges against a defendant?

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

- Understand the events surrounding the Holocaust, including the reasoning behind and consequences of the Nuremberg Trials.
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Nuremberg Trials, including “victor’s justice.”
- Show familiarity with more recent cases of genocide and other crimes against humanity, their political and ideological causes, and their aftermaths.
- Discuss and define war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Discuss the Nuremberg Principles and how they influenced later development of the International Court of Justice and other tribunals created to try perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Understand how forensic anthropology aids in the process of trying war criminals.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

Ask students to reflect on the personal and societal impact of crimes against humanity like The Holocaust. How do people heal and move forward after experiencing such incomprehensible violence toward themselves, their families, and their communities?

Have students write down the things that they would imagine needing in order to best heal after war atrocities. Remind the class that not only are people killed, but also families are often separated and possessions are seized. Neighbors who have lived peacefully together for decades are known to turn against each other because of their different ethnic or religious backgrounds. Students can then share their thoughts.

Lesson Development

Lecture/Discussion

Students will probably bring up the need for some form of justice during the discussion. Introduce and describe the Nuremberg Trials held at the end of World

War II. Include the events and discussions held between Allied leaders that led to the Trials during the talks in Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam. Discuss possible reasons why a judicial process was chosen instead of other options to bring justice to Nazi war criminals, including summary execution without trial, the complete denazification of Germany, and forced labor camps. Discuss the purposes and achievements of the process conducted at Nuremberg, including the *Nuremberg Principles* and *Nuremberg Code*. Hand out copies of the Nuremberg Principles and Nuremberg Code, and mention their influence on later developments in policies concerning research on human subjects and international law.

Introduce the idea of “victor’s justice.” Ask students whether they felt the Allied nations committed any war crimes or crimes against humanity as defined by the Nuremberg Principles and then have them discuss this issue.

Emphasize the fact that there have been many cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity since the Nuremberg Trials. Human rights advocates and forensic scientists have been working together with the international community to bring perpetrators of these crimes to justice. Relate the work that forensic anthropologists do at mass grave sites, prisoner of war camps, and other places to the process that students are modeling in this unit. This work involves collecting evidence to corroborate witness testimony about war crimes. Further, forensic techniques like DNA fingerprinting are used to help families reunite after years of separation and to help identify remains for proper burial by surviving family members.

If there is time, read excerpts from forensic investigations of mass graves from books such as *The Bone Woman* by Clea Koff.

Small Group Work

Divide the class into small groups. Each group will investigate the causes and consequences of different war crimes that were committed after World War II. Pass out information (newspaper clippings, Internet research) on war crimes and crimes against humanity that have been or are now being investigated by an international or national tribunal. Alternatively, students can do their own research and bring it to class the next day. The following are some suggestions for research on more recent war crimes:

My Lai, Vietnam, 1968
Cambodia, 1975–1979
Former Yugoslavia, 1990s
Sierra Leone, 1991–2001
Rwanda, 1994
East Timor, 1999

Lesson Closure

Have students share their knowledge of the atrocities they researched, including the causes and nature of the crimes, the efficacy of the tribunal or court involved, and any reconciliation processes that aided in healing the community involved. Also mention how forensics was used to gather evidence for trial, and what organization was charged with uncovering that evidence.

Students can discuss whether a legal trial is appropriate for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and if so, the relative importance of forensic evidence in these types of trials in comparison to trials involving other types of crimes.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Students may think that The Holocaust was the only major crime against humanity in history.

Students may have misconceptions about the power of international courts of justice to convict and punish war criminals, and the United States government's position on international courts.

Students may have an inflated sense of the importance of forensic evidence; they may need to consider the appropriate balance of physical and eye-witness evidence in war crime cases.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Student reports on post-World War II war crimes and their related tribunals

Variations and Extensions

Invite an expert on human rights, forensic anthropology, or international law to be a guest speaker in your class.

Invite a survivor of The Holocaust or another war atrocity to be a guest speaker.

Expand the lesson to include other methods of encouraging the healing and growth of societies after atrocities are committed, including truth and reconciliation committees.

Expand the lesson to include crimes against humanity that have not been brought to trial or otherwise dealt with publicly and investigate the reasons why.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NCSS Content Standards, World History

The student in grades 5–12 should understand

- the causes and global consequences of World War II.
- how post-World War II reconstruction occurred, new international power relations took shape, and colonial empires broke up.
- the search for community, stability, and peace in an interdependent world.
- major global trends since World War II.

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History-Social Science Content Standards, Grade 10

- 10.8. Students analyze the causes and consequences of World War II:
- 10.8.5. Analyze the Nazi policy of pursuing racial purity, especially against the European Jews; its transformation into the Final Solution; and the Holocaust that resulted in the murder of six million Jewish civilians.
- 10.8.6. Discuss the human costs of the war, with particular attention to the civilian and military losses in Russia, Germany, Britain, the United States, China, and Japan.
- 10.10. Students analyze instances of nation-building in the contemporary world in at least two of the following regions or countries: the Middle East, Africa, Mexico and other parts of Latin America, and China.
- 10.10.1. Understand the challenges in the regions, including their geopolitical, cultural, military, and economic significance and the international relationships in which they are involved.
- 10.10.2. Describe the recent history of the regions, including political divisions and systems, key leaders, religious issues, natural features, resources, and population patterns.
- 10.10.3. Discuss the important trends in the regions today and whether they appear to serve the cause of individual freedom and democracy.

The Nuremberg Principles

Principles of International Law Recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the Judgment of the Tribunal, 1950.

Principle I

Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefore and liable to punishment.

Principle II

The fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an act which constitutes a crime under international law does not relieve the person who committed the act from responsibility under international law.

Principle III

The fact that a person who committed an act which constitutes a crime under international law acted as Head of State or responsible Government official does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.

Principle IV

The fact that a person acted pursuant to order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under international law, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.

Principle V

Any person charged with a crime under international law has the right to a fair trial on the facts and law.

Principle VI

The crimes hereinafter set out are punishable as crimes under international law:

- (a) Crimes against peace:
 - (i) Planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances;
 - (ii) Participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of any of the acts mentioned under (i).
- (b) War crimes:

Violations of the laws or customs of war include, but are not limited to, murder, ill-treatment or deportation to slave-labour or for any other purpose of civilian population of or in occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war, of persons on the seas, killing of hostages, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction of cities, towns, or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity.
- (c) Crimes against humanity:

Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation and other inhuman acts done against any civilian population, or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds, when such acts are done or such persecutions are carried on in execution of or in connection with any crime against peace or any war crime.

Principle VII

Complicity in the commission of a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity as set forth in Principle VI is a crime under international law.

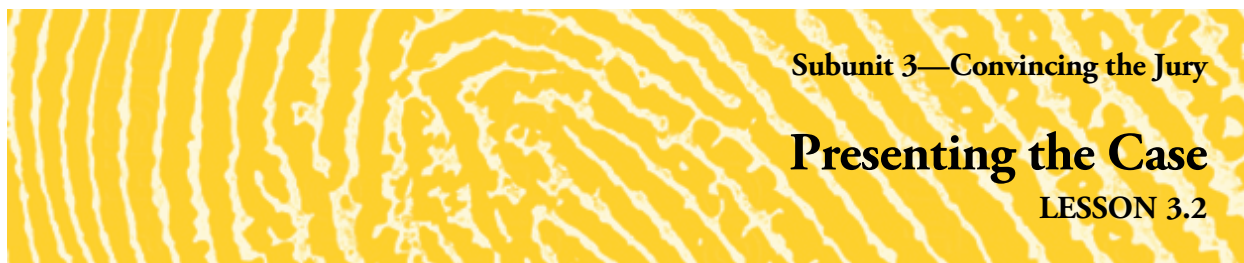
The Nuremberg Code

Trials of War Criminals before the Nuremberg Military Tribunals under Control Council Law No. 10, Vol. 2, pp. 181–182. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1949.

1. The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.

This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, over-reaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved, as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision. This latter element requires that, before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject, there should be made known to him the nature, duration, and purpose of the experiment; the method and means by which it is to be conducted; all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person, which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment.

2. The duty and responsibility for ascertaining the quality of the consent rests upon each individual who initiates, directs or engages in the experiment. It is a personal duty and responsibility which may not be delegated to another with impunity.
3. The experiment should be such as to yield fruitful results for the good of society, unprocurable by other methods or means of study, and not random and unnecessary in nature.
4. The experiment should be so designed and based on the results of animal experimentation and knowledge of the natural history of the disease or other problem under study, that the anticipated results will justify the performance of the experiment.
5. The experiment should be so conducted as to avoid all unnecessary physical and mental suffering and injury.
6. No experiment should be conducted, where there is an a priori reason to believe that death or disabling injury will occur; except, perhaps, in those experiments where the experimental physicians also serve as subjects.
7. The degree of risk to be taken should never exceed that determined by the humanitarian importance of the problem to be solved by the experiment.
8. Proper preparations should be made and adequate facilities provided to protect the experimental subject against even remote possibilities of injury, disability, or death.
9. The experiment should be conducted only by scientifically qualified persons. The highest degree of skill and care should be required through all stages of the experiment of those who conduct or engage in the experiment.
10. During the course of the experiment, the human subject should be at liberty to bring the experiment to an end, if he has reached the physical or mental state, where continuation of the experiment seemed to him to be impossible.
11. During the course of the experiment, the scientist in charge must be prepared to terminate the experiment at any stage, if he has probable cause to believe, in the exercise of the good faith, superior skill and careful judgment required of him, that a continuation of the experiment is likely to result in injury, disability, or death to the experimental subject.



Subunit 3—Convincing the Jury

Presenting the Case

LESSON 3.2

English Language Arts

Essential Question for This Unit

Time

2 class sessions, plus
150 minutes for presentations

What are the appropriate roles for scientific technology and human judgment in arriving at verdicts in criminal cases?

Materials

- Evidence/conclusions from each Subunit 2 lesson
- Tips For Writing a Synopsis Handout
- Guidelines for Oral Presentations Handout
- Sample Presentation Rubric

Objectives

After completing this lesson, students should be able to

Prior Student Learning

Students should have completed lessons from Subunits 1 and 2.

- Write persuasive compositions.
- Support their claims with convincing evidence and defend the sources from which they came.
- Synthesize information from a variety of sources to produce presentation materials.
- Deliver an oral presentation in front of the class.

Lesson Activities

Lesson Springboard

Students will have completed their investigation of the murder in their various classes, and now must write a brief synopsis (200–350 words) detailing their findings and evidence to be used in a five minute oral presentation to the supervising police lieutenant. The supervising lieutenant reviews the case and determines whether or not there is enough probable cause to arrest the suspect. If necessary, define probable cause for students—it is the reasonable belief that a person has committed a crime.

Explain to students that this is a persuasive presentation, not merely a factual report. Therefore, they must make their argument convincing, provide good evidence to support their claims and present it in a persuasive manner. In particular, they must consider these questions:

- What do I want to convince others to believe? (What is my conclusion about the murder?)
- What is my strongest piece of evidence?
- Do I place my strongest evidence at the beginning of the summary or at the end?
- In what order do I place my other pieces of evidence?
- How do I make my evidence credible? How do I explain, in brief, that the forensic tests I performed are scientific?
- What refutations can be made against my argument? Are there ways to rebut these in the short time that I have?

Lesson Development

Small Group Work

Have students break into groups of 3 or 4 to discuss the evidence and findings from the previous lessons in all of the subject areas. In their groups, have them address the questions listed above. Once the group has thoroughly reviewed all of the pieces of evidence, they should come to a conclusion about what happened in the murder and the most convincing way to argue that case.

Student Writing

When groups have finished their discussion, distribute the student handout: **Tips for Writing a Synopsis**. Review it with your class, and ask them to draft a synopsis of the case for homework.

During the next class session, have students return to their groups from the previous day and share their synopses. In their groups, have them draft a final version of the case synopsis using the best parts of each student's work. Remind them that they are writing a summary to be used in a presentation to the supervising lieutenant. They must decide which pieces of evidence are most important; how to order these in a logical way; and how to briefly defend the forensics they have used.

Presentations

Ask students why a police supervisor might want a brief oral presentation of a case in addition to the case file and written synopsis. If the answer is not apparent to students, explain how busy decision-makers often want to briefly hear about an issue in order to decide on how carefully to read more detailed material about it. This is why the class must do both written and oral presentations of the same case. When groups complete their synopses, discuss how their writing has defined a structure for their oral presentation. Students have already done the work of making a strong and concise argument, and now they only need to communicate that argument in another format.

General guidelines for good oral presentations are provided in the handout **Guidelines for Oral Presentations**. Go over the guidelines with the class, acting out examples of what students should and shouldn't do during their presentations. A **Sample Presentation Rubric** is also provided. Use this rubric or one of your own to grade the presentations, and go over its contents with students before they begin preparing for the assignment so that they are aware of the expectations they should meet. Tell students that they will be using the same rubric to perform peer evaluations of the presentations.

Allow students enough time in class to prepare for their presentations. Groups must define a speaking role for each of their members, practice to ensure a smooth delivery, and prepare to address counterarguments from their classmates. Approximately 3 minutes of presentation time should be spent on the argument, reserving 2 minutes for counterarguments from the audience, rebuttals, questions, and answers.

On presentation day, serve as the supervising lieutenant that students can present to, or invite your local police lieutenant into the classroom to help evaluate and critique the presentations. Give each student enough copies of the rubric to

evaluate all the presentations, and allow enough time for students to write thoughtful comments to their peers. Collect the peer evaluations of each presentation. They can be weighed with the teacher evaluation to calculate the final presentation grade.

It is also suggested that students be required to pose 2-3 counterarguments during others' presentations to ensure an attentive audience. They can use what they've learned in prior lessons on forensics to question the reliability of DNA or blood testing, the credibility of footprint analysis or witness interviews, and so on. Groups are responsible for refuting counterarguments persuasively as part of the presentation.

Lesson Closure

As this is the last lesson of the unit, it is important for students to reflect on what they accomplished. Take the time to applaud students for using knowledge from different subject areas to solve a crime. Ask them to reflect on which the activities in the unit were most enjoyable and which activities they were the most successful with. Then ask students to think about how their answers might inform their future academic and career choices. Reinforce the concept that self-reflection is essential for making appropriate decisions about the future.

Possible Prior Misconceptions

Some students will think they should present the evidence in the order in which they gathered it. In fact, there are several ways to organize the presentation, and all pieces of evidence should not be given equal weight.

Students may believe they should simply report the facts, when in reality they must present in a persuasive manner. Persuasive presentations include emotional appeals.

Student Assessment Artifacts

Synopsis

Oral presentation

Variations and Extensions

Hold an evening event and invite local police professionals, including the local supervising lieutenant to watch and evaluate the presentations. Use the event as an opportunity to invite parents, community leaders and other legal and law enforcement professionals to participate in evaluating the student presentations.

Have students write and present individually, rather than in groups.

Have students use visual aids, such as PowerPoint presentation or poster boards.

Have students integrate multimedia into their presentation (e.g. photos of the footprints at the crime scene, or videotaping interviews for the police report).

Students can give their presentations in front of the class and then videotape it. The teacher will show several of these videos to the class, which serves as the "supervising lieutenant" and will decide whether or not there is enough probable cause to make an arrest.

National and State Academic Standards

NATIONAL

NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts

3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).
4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
5. Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
6. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts.

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Content Standards of English Language Arts

Writing

- 1.5 Synthesize information from multiple sources and identify complexities and discrepancies in the information and the different perspectives found in each medium (e.g., almanacs, microfiche, news sources, in-depth field studies, speeches, journals, technical documents).
- 2.4 Write persuasive compositions:
 - a. Structure ideas and arguments in a sustained and logical fashion.
 - b. Use specific rhetorical devices to support assertions
 - c. Clarify and defend positions with precise and relevant evidence.

Listening and Speaking

- 1.3 Choose logical patterns of organization (e.g., chronological, topical, cause and effect) to inform and to persuade, by soliciting agreement or action, or to unite audiences behind a common belief or cause.
- 1.9 Analyze the occasion and the interests of the audience and choose effective verbal and nonverbal techniques (e.g., voice, gestures, eye contact) for presentations.
- 2.6 Deliver descriptive presentations.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Tips for Writing a Synopsis

A synopsis is a condensed statement or outline that includes all of the main points of the case or argument. For the purposes of this unit, the synopsis should clearly and concisely describe the facts of the case, and how the pieces of evidence help to logically conclude who the murderer is. Think back to the discussion you had in class earlier today. Use that information to help inform your writing. Below are some tips to help you get started writing your case synopsis:

- Determine which facts and pieces of evidence you want to include in the synopsis. Typically, these are the strongest pieces that help support your conclusion.
- Include why your evidence is credible. You may want to mention that the forensic tests you performed were scientific.
- Think about the order in which you present your evidence. You want to either start strong or end strong. Do not hide the most important piece of evidence in the middle.
- Create momentum and suspense through the presentation of your evidence. This will emotionally appeal to your audience, and will help make your argument stronger.
- Clearly present facts and logical reasoning to support your conclusion.
- Make it clear who you think the murderer is.
- Create an outline of all of the pieces of evidence from the case that you are going to include.
- Use your outline to write out your conclusion to the case in your own words first. Edit it to create more concise statements. Keep editing it until you have reached maximum impact in the least amount of words possible.

Additional things to keep in mind:

- Use the synopsis as a guideline for what you are going to include in your presentation.
- Mimic the structure of your synopsis in your presentation. By keeping the same order of items, the audience will more easily remember what you have said.
- Practice reading your synopsis out loud. Try to remember pieces of it (if not all) during your presentation.
- Practice your presentation, including the synopsis. Make sure that the synopsis fits well with the rest of your presentation.

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Guidelines for Oral Presentations

Preparation

Preparation is the key to giving a great presentation and to controlling your nervousness. Know your topic well. Good preparation will boost your self-confidence.

- A 4-minute talk is roughly equivalent to 2 double spaced pages in 12-pt. font and 1” margins—however, never read a presentation. Write out your presentation if you need to organize your thoughts, but then outline this text for the actual presentation.

Handouts

Handouts provide structure. They can provide additional material, references, a glossary of terms, and serve as a record of the presentation. The handout should be attractively laid out and inviting to read.

Practice

Practice giving your presentation to yourself. Speak out loud and time yourself. Practice using your visual aids. It is absolutely important that you stay within your time limit.

Delivery

To deliver your presentation you will have to overcome your nervousness and deal with room conditions. Good preparation should allay most of your nervousness; realizing that everyone feels nervous before a presentation should also help. Your presentation will never go exactly as you think it will. Fortunately, they usually go better than you expect! However, if you are using any kind of technology (overhead projector or PowerPoint) be prepared for something to go wrong and have a backup plan.

Delivery tips:

- Dress neatly and appropriately. The rule of thumb is to dress one level nicer than the audience will be dressed.
- Speak in a clear, audible voice loud enough to be clearly heard in the back row. Never mumble.
- Stand up straight, don't slouch or drape yourself around the podium.
- Don't rock back and forth on your heels, don't tap a pencil or play with pencil or pointer and don't do things that will distract from your content.
- Make frequent eye contact with the audience. Really look at the audience as you talk to them.
- If you use slides or PowerPoint avoid the tendency to speak to the screen instead of to the audience.
- At the end of your presentation, summarize your main points and give a strong concluding remark that reinforces your argument.

Adapted from: <http://go.owu.edu/~dapeople/ggpresnt.html>

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Sample Presentation Rubric

Evaluating Student Group Presentations					
	4	3	2	1	Score
Organization	Students present information in logical, interesting sequence which audience can follow.	Students present information in logical sequence which audience can follow.	Audience has difficulty following presentation because students jump around.	Audience cannot understand presentation because there is no sequence of information.	
Math (Algebra and Geometry) Content	Students demonstrate full knowledge of the math presented in the unit. Students thoroughly explain how math has helped solve the crime during the presentation.	Students understand the math lessons in the unit, and briefly discuss its use in forensics during the presentation.	Students uses math to help solve the crime, but do not mention it during the presentation.	Students do not have a grasp of mathematical concepts used in the unit. There is no mention of math during the presentation.	
Biology Content	Students demonstrate full knowledge of the biology lessons presented in the unit. Students thoroughly explain how biology has helped solve the crime during the presentation.	Students understand the biology lessons in the unit, and briefly discuss its use in forensics during the presentation.	Students use biology to help solve the crime, but do not mention it during the presentation.	Students do not have a grasp of biology concepts used in the unit. There is no mention of biology during the presentation.	
English Language Arts Content	Students demonstrate full knowledge of the English standards presented in the unit. Student incorporates the police report into the presentation.	Students understand the English standards in the unit, and briefly discuss the role of the police report in solving the crime during the presentation.	Students use the police report to help solve the crime, but do not explicitly mention it during the presentation.	Students do not have a grasp of English standards used in the unit. There is no mention of the police report during the presentation.	

Sample Presentation Rubric (continued)

Evaluating Student Group Presentations					
	4	3	2	1	Score
Conclusion	Students use sufficient evidence to logically conclude who the murderer is. Students present the evidence in a compelling way that supports their conclusion.	Students use some evidence to come to a conclusion about who the murderer is.	Students do not use evidence in a way that logically helps determine who the murderer is.	Students analyze evidence yet do not come to a conclusion about what happened in the case.	
Synopsis	Students have crafted a persuasive and concise synopsis of the case that frames their findings, and helps to conclude their presentation.	Students use the synopsis at the end of the presentation to frame their conclusions.	Students do not use the synopsis to frame the case and their conclusions.	Students did not complete a synopsis to use in the presentation.	
Eye Contact	Students maintain eye contact with audience, seldom returning to notes.	Students maintain eye contact most of the time but frequently return to notes.	Students occasionally use eye contact, but still read most of report.	Students read all of report with no eye contact.	
Timing	Students presented a well thought out presentation, including the conclusion, within the stated timeframe.	Students presented a well thought out presentation, but went far over stated time limits.	Student's presentation lacked substance. Students concluded their presentation well before the stated time limit.	Students were not able to deliver a well thought out presentation. Students completed the presentation well before stated time limits.	
Total Score:					

Comments: