

Lovejoy High School
Forensic Science

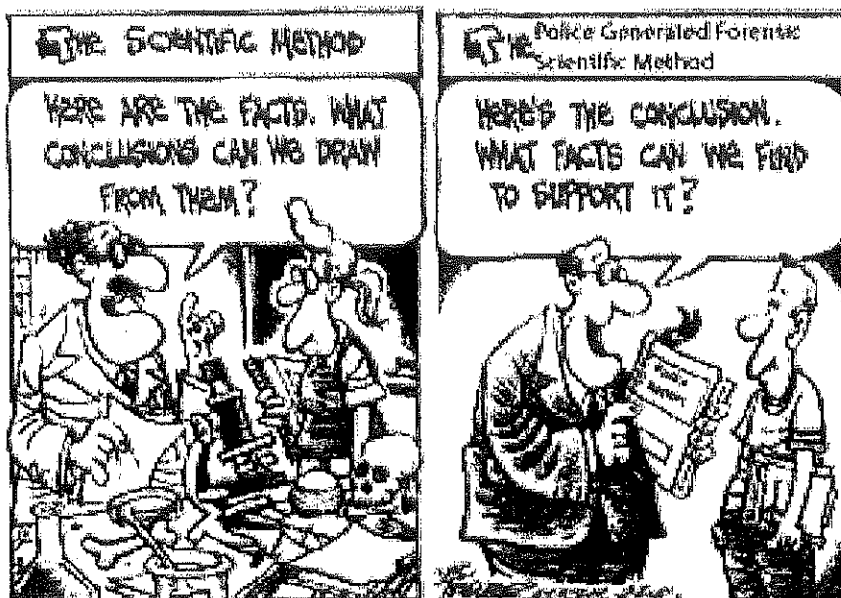
Unit 1 Guide: History, Careers, and Law

Learning Goals:

- Describe Forensic science.
- Distinguish between forensics and criminalistics.
- Model how a crime lab should look.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of various careers within the forensic science field.
- Evaluate the impacts of forensic science to the fields of law enforcement, criminal investigation and medicine.
- Interpret the ethical standards of forensic science.
- Discuss and present various careers in oral format.
- Defend how the history of forensic science has shaped the field today.
- Compare and contrast forensic science and psychology as it relates to criminal behavior in society.
- Explain the different types of crimes.
- Describe the importance of criminal justice and the law.
- List the steps in pursuing justice.

Key terms: forensic science, criminalistics, ethics, criminal justice, evidence, ballistics, odontology, pathology, entomology, palynology, polygraphy, statutory law, common law, case law, civil law, criminal law, misdemeanor, felony, probable cause, violation, infraction, Miranda rights, evidentiary hearing, grand jury, indict, plea bargaining, probative, material, expert witness, Frye standard

Reading for Understanding: Chapter 1



Introduction to Forensic Science and the Law: Chapter 1 OUTLINE

I. What is Forensic Science?

II. Major Crime Laboratories:

III. People of Historical Significance:

IV. Laws that Pertain to the U.S. Criminal Justice

V. COURT CASES

A. Federal Rules of Evidence-

B. Miranda v Arizona:

C. COURT CASES ON Admissibility of Evidence

1. 1923

2. 1993

VI. Types of Crimes

Facets of Guilt:

Name _____

Date _____ Pd. _____

Ch. 1 Forensic Science History

1. Give a brief description of the event in forensic science for each of the dates below:

- a. 1514 - _____
- b. 1670 - _____
- c. 1784 - _____
- d. 1835 - _____
- e. 1896 - _____
- f. 1904 - _____
- g. 1920 - Gerasimov _____
- h. 1922 - _____
- i. 1948 - _____
- j. 1959 - _____
- k. 1978 - _____
- l. 1987 - _____
- m. 1991 - _____
- n. 1996 - _____
- o. 1998 - _____

2. State the Locard Principle in your own words.

3. What 5 standards did Daubert vs. Merrell Dow establish as the standards of admission of scientific evidence acceptable in a court case? What year were these established?

4. What 1 standard did Frye vs. United States establish in regards to scientific evidence allowed in court? What year was this established?

5. Give 2 punishments for the 3 types of crime (infractions, misdemeanors, and felonies)?

6. What is the difference between criminalistics, criminology and forensic science?

7. Which governmental agencies maintain their own crime labs.

8. What is the CSI effect?

9. With the Missing Computer Chip Case, could you definitively choose only 1 perpetrator?

'The CSI Effect' By Brian Dakss

"It seems the popular CBS TV show on crime scene investigators is having an effect "The CSI Effect" on *real-life* jurors. They want a clear trail of evidence, or they won't vote "guilty."

The latest example: the Robert Blake murder trial, reports *The Early Show* correspondent Hattie Kauffman. She notes that, despite more than one witness testifying Blake had asked them to kill his wife, the jurors wanted more than that. They wanted the razzle-dazzle of "CSI."

Every week, Kauffman explains, stars on the show solve crimes based on intricate analysis of forensic evidence. And that kind of evidence just wasn't available in the Blake case. "They couldn't put the gun in his hand. ... There was no blood spatter. They had nothing," jury foreman Thomas Nicholson said after the trial ended. It was prosecutor Shellie Samuels' first loss in 50 murder cases. Though she presented more than 70 witnesses against Blake, she couldn't show the jury blood evidence, or conclusive gun-shot residue.

"If she would have had all that information," juror Lori Moore said later, "that would have meant that he was guilty." More than 60 million people watch the "CSI" shows every week, which means a lot of potential jurors now have high expectations of forensic evidence. "The CSI Effect" is being felt in courtrooms from coast to coast, Kauffman points out.

"Jurors now expect us to have a DNA test for just about every case," laments Oregon District Attorney Josh Marquis. "They expect us to have the most advanced technology possible, and they expect it to look like it does on television."

Trouble is, Kauffman notes, this district attorney works in the small Oregon town of Astoria. The nearest forensic lab is hours away.

Beth Carpenter, who's with the Oregon Crime Lab, says there are expectations well beyond what the reality is, and that has increased the workload quite a bit.

And in a big city like Baltimore, prosecutors blamed "The CSI Effect" when jurors acquitted a man of murder, even though there were two eyewitnesses.

"Not even first degree, second degree, third degree, nothing, and they shot my husband," cried Patricia Peterson, the victim's wife.

Even the producers of "CSI" have been surprised at how jurors want to judge fact from their fictional creation. "CSI" creator Anthony E. Zuiker observes, "The CSI Effect" is, in my opinion, the most amazing thing that has ever come out of the series. For the first time in American history, you're not allowed to fool the jury anymore." In fact, Kauffman adds, at least half the jurors selected for the Blake case say they watch such shows regularly. "The prosecutor took the approach of, 'We don't need the DNA, we don't need the eyewitness, we've got the big picture here, and if you look at the big picture, who had the motive, who had the opportunity, who acted strangely, who wanted his wife dead -- it was Robert Blake,'" says Loyola Law School Professor Laurie Levensen, a former federal prosecutor. But clearly, the jury wanted the evidence they see on "CSI" each week. It may be ironic that a man who made his fame on a TV crime show, "Baretta," was acquitted thanks, in part, to a TV crime show.

Former prosecutor Wendy Murphy, a CBS News consultant, says "The CSI Effect" is real, and an impediment: "When 'CSI' trumps common sense, then you have a systemic problem. The National District Attorneys Association is deeply concerned about the effect of 'CSI.'" Murphy points out, "This has been a bit of a problem even before the onset of DNA, and shows like 'CSI.' You get jurors who don't have a lot of brain cells asking questions after the case is over about why there weren't any fingerprints on the pillow case. Of course, that makes no sense." But once you get the influence of 'CSI,' what they start to expect is not only a lot of forensic evidence, but that this one missing piece would have told them the truth. That's just not reality. "Most murder cases have a little forensic evidence, but it doesn't really tell the whole story." "I actually think one of the problems is we're not screening out these jurors who are way too much under the influence of these pop culture programs. They shouldn't be allowed to sit in judgment, frankly."

Defense attorney and CBS News consultant Mickey Sherman disagrees, saying jurors are "a little more educated now, maybe too educated. ... If they believe the person committed the crime, forensics or not, they're gonna find him guilty."

Use your own paper to write a one half page essay in your own words of what the CSI Effect is and whether jurors should be screened during jury selection to see if their judgment is affected by watching fictional crime shows.

Then, list 10 things that the crime scene investigators on CSI do which would NOT be allowed at a real crime scene.

Name _____

Period _____

Name of Show _____

Date aired _____

Place a check on the column on the left if you witness this action in the show you view

Forensic TV mistakes

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 The CSI is the first responder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 The CSI enters a scene without foot coverings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 The CSI enters a scene without taking pictures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 The crime scene is dark, but no one turns on the lights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 Tiny flashlights are used to scan a dark room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 Evidence is moved before being documented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 Evidence is collected before being documented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 CSIs moves the corpse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 All crimes are murders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 CSIs go through the pockets of the deceased |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 No detectives are at the crime scene |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 CSIs order the cops around |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 The crime scene is processed in less than 10 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 All fingerprints at the crime scene are legible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 No fingerprint powder remains when techs leave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 Crime scene released, then revisited later |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 Arson scenes are all safe to enter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 Decomposing bodies don't stink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 No one gags, regardless of the smell or sight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 DNA processing only takes five minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 Only one case for the entire forensic facility at a time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 All important bullets are found |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 Tox report shows all drugs, regardless of decomp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 Labs are kept dark with minimal lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 All evidence tables are lit from beneath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 Autopsy victims are tastefully clothed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 During an autopsy the brain isn't removed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 Autopsies only take five minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 AFIS fingerprint searches only takes one minute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 AFIS fingerprint searches flash by on computer screen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 AFIS fingerprint searches only find one positive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 32 Facial ID possibilities all flash on the computer screen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 33 No warrants needed for database searches of suspects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 34 All databases are accessible to investigators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 35 DNA is found on every surface examined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 36 Blood is found on every surface examined for it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 37 All blood found is human blood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 38 All trace evidence is identified in five minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 39 CSIs conduct interviews of suspects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 40 CSIs inform suspects of their rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 41 CSIs make arrests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 42 CSIs look like models |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | # of checkmarks from this page |

Forensic TV mistakes--continued

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 43 No one ever has a bad day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 44 No one has conflicts with another team member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 45 All hair recovered yields DNA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 46 A single computer can access all other computers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 47 No warrant is needed for cell phone records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 48 No warrant is needed for financial records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 49 No one eats, ever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 50 No one uses a restroom, ever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 51 All labs are open, but no contamination enters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 52 All suspects eventually confess |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 53 All murderers remain in the area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 54 All guns contain 20+ bullets during a shoot out |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 55 CSIs can grant immunity in exchange for a confession |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 56 No one goes on vacation, ever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 57 All slow-motion depictions of injuries are realistic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 58 All walls in the forensic facility are made of glass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 59 Every lab has whatever supplies they need |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 60 No one has to share equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 61 No corpse is bloated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 62 CSIs able to access all information needed from suspect cell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 63 The time of death requires only one measurement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 64 No corpse is X-Rayed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 65 Autopsy suites are open to everyone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 66 Bullets are handled with metal forceps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 67 Blood spatter patterns take only a glance to interpret |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 68 No CSI ever spends significant time researching. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 69 Ballistic gel is plentiful and cheap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 70 No evidence needs to be photographed against a ruler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 71 Crime scene sketches unnecessary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 72 All bystanders and crowds are orderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 73 No trace evidence has contaminants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 74 District attorneys never consult with detectives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 75 None of the cases make it to court; suspects confess or die |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 76 Outdoor nighttime crime scenes never need floodlights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 77 All video footage can be enlarged and sharpened |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 78 All confiscated vehicles will yield evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 79 CSIs can switch shifts with no ill effects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 80 There are no budgetary limits on equipment or overtime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 81 All analysts and CSIs are very friendly with each other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 82 All analysts and CSIs are experts in every forensic area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 83 CSIs notify next of kin on the death of a loved one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 84 CSIs use alternate light sources in bright daylight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 85 CSIs use a Hummer as their response vehicle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 86 Female CSIs wear high heels to a scene investigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | # of checkmarks from this page |

Grand total of checkmarks from both pages!