

## Initial Exploration of Forensics

First steps:

- Please make a copy of this document
- Please retitle it: "Last Name, First Name Initial Exploration of Forensics"
- Turn it in on Google classroom **WHEN YOU'RE DONE! :)**
- Do a little dance because you're awesome

**Introduction:** Today will serve as an opportunity for you to do some initial exploration of forensic science. I encourage you to use this time to explore your personal interests within forensic science. Starting next week, we will split into specialized forensics groups. You, along with your group members, will become an expert on a specific forensics topic in order to teach others, assist in a mock crime investigation, and serve as a resident expert when we tackle the CIP case files. I want you to have as much say as possible when it comes to the topic area you are interested in studying, so by following this document you will be able to narrow in on a subject that suits your interests. **YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PICK A TOPIC AREA ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH.** The specialized forensics topics are:

- Forensic Anthropology
- DNA
- Forensic Psychology
- Investigative Misconduct
- Ballistics/Blood Spatter
- Impression Evidence

For each of the above topic areas, please answer the following.

Notes:

- Include your references by hyperlinking them.
  - To hyperlink, type the word Reference, select the word, and click on the icon in the menu bar that looks like a chain link (or a sideways paperclip!), and insert the URL into the box that says link. Example:

A meme is an idea that is spread from person to person in a society or culture. ([Reference](#)).

- Wikipedia is fine for this initial exploration phase, but I encourage you to look at other websites (especially government, science, and university websites). NEVER Yahoo Answers or similar websites.

1. What's the general definition of topic?

**Forensic Anthropology:** Scientific Study of human remains, usually with the express purpose of identifying remains of the deceased

**DNA:** Deoxyribonucleic Acid- Genetic Material in cells that holds the inherited for growth, development and cellular functioning

**Forensic Psychology:** the application of psychology to legal matter in court of law

**Investigative Misconduct:** An investigation of an unacceptable or improper behavior, especially by an employee or professional person.

**Ballistic/Blood Spatter:** Blood squirting out rapidly due to a ripped blood vessel when a human body is cut

**Impression Evidence:** Where several objects are pressed or stamped against one another allowing objects to transfer and retain characteristics from one another

2. How is it used in forensics?

**Forensic Anthropology:** Suggest age, gender, ancestry and unique features to help investigators in need of evidence

**DNA:** Flakes of skin, drops of blood, saliva can be useful to identify the criminal in the investigation or to help testify those convicted of the crime and prove they are innocent

**Forensic Psychology:** Provide testimony in court with any party in criminal or family law

**Investigative Misconduct:**

**Ballistic/Blood Spatter:** Determines where and with what a person has been hit which can lead to further evidence

**Impression Evidence:** Judge or jury can use any type of impression evidence in a trial

3. What is a famous court case that it was used in as a piece of evidence?

**Forensic Anthropology:** John Wayne Gacy case

**DNA:** The Boston Strangler Case

**Forensic Psychology:** Bad To The Bone Case

**Investigative Misconduct:** Chen, Li

**Ballistic/Blood Spatter:** Christopher Vaughn Murder Case

**Impression Evidence:** The Curious Case of Mr. Jones' feet

4. How reliable is it (i.e., how accurate is it)?

**Forensic Anthropology:** Quite accurate depending on what part of the body is used to analyze

**DNA:** 99.9% Reliable

**Forensic Psychology:** Fairly accurate depending on interrogation

**Investigative Misconduct:** Reliable enough to see what went wrong in the process of the crime

**Ballistic/Blood Spatter:** Depending on how high the velocity is and what the length or width is can determine how accurate

**Impression Evidence:** Very reliable to find what the criminals used to escape

5. What are your initial thoughts about this topic area?

**Forensic Anthropology:** Not always so useful to investigate with a crime

**DNA:** Helpful in finding out who the suspect is

**Forensic Psychology:** Great for interrogating and use in court

**Investigative Misconduct:** Useful in eliminating who the non suspects

**Ballistic/Blood Spatter:** Provides a lot of evidence to see how and where the crime was committed

**Impression Evidence:** Also provides a lot of evidence to use in court

6. What questions do you have about the topic?

**Forensic Anthropology:** Is it frequently used in solving crimes?

**DNA:** Can DNA sometimes be linked to a wrong person?

**Forensic Psychology:** Does the psychology work on everybody?

**Investigative Misconduct:** No questions because I have a clear understanding on this topic

**Ballistic/Blood Spatter:** What if all evidence with blood spatter is hid or disintegrated?

**Impression Evidence:** What if the vehicle that was suspected as a getaway car is not found? Do investigators eliminate what they thought to be wheel tracks?