Unit 1- Introduction to Forensics

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

1. Define observation and describe what changes occur in the brain while observing.
2. Describe examples of factors influencing eyewitness accounts of events.
3. Compare the reliability of eyewitness testimony with what actually happened.
4. Explain how the different types of evidence are observed and collected.
5. Practice recording and preserving a crime scene.

Forensic Science (or Criminalistics) is the use of ___________________ to enforce civil & criminal laws.

*****Using the services of Forensics Labs slides, would you consider Forensic scientists to be “generalists” or “specialists”?

How do TV shows portray Forensic scientists? “generalists” or “specialists”?

Civil vs. Criminal Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil Law</th>
<th>Criminal Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filed by:</td>
<td>Filed by:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalty:</td>
<td>Penalty:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A forensic investigator must be able to clearly:

1.                      2.                      3.

What is an Observation?

-What a person ________________ using his or her ____________________

-We are constantly collecting information through observations: ________________________________

-We cannot pay attention to everything all at once.

-We pay attention to things likely to be important like __________________________: new movement, sound, etc.

____________________ is an unconscious process that helps the brain deal with all the stimuli and information that bombards it.
***Describe how the **amount** of information changes as the brain processes and stores the information in long-term memory.

Perception is

1. 2. 3.

Witness Observations are affected by:

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

**Eyewitness Accounts**

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

**The Innocence Project**

Used ________________ to examine post-conviction cases to conclusively decide guilt or innocence

Faulty eyewitness identification accounted for up to ________________ of wrongful convictions
How to be a Good Observer

Crime-Scene Investigation and Evidence Collection

-When a person comes in contact with an object or another person, a cross-transfer of physical material can occur.
  - The ________, ________, and ________ of the entities and contact determine the extent of the transfer.

Types of Evidence

- Direct evidence or Testimonial Evidence:

- Physical Evidence:

- Class evidence:

- Individual evidence:

- Transient Evidence:
  — putrefaction, perfume, gasoline, urine, burning, explosives, cigarette or cigar smoke
surroundings, car hood, coffee, water in a bathtub, cadaver

footprints, teeth marks in perishable foods, tire marks on certain surfaces

o Pattern Evidence:

o Conditional Evidence:

Light—

color, direction of travel, density, odor

Fire—__________ of the flames, speed of spread, temperature and condition of fire

Location—of injuries or __________, of bloodstains, of the victim’s vehicle, of weapons or cartridge cases, of broken __________

__________—doors locked or unlocked, windows opened or closed, radio off or on, odometer mileage

Body—position and types of wounds; ________________________

Scene-

The Seven S’S of Crime-Scene Investigation

1. Securing the Scene:

2. Separating the Witnesses:

3. Scanning the Scene:

4. Seeing the Scene:

5. Sketching the Scene:

6. Searching for Evidence:

7. Securing and Collecting Evidence:

________________________:

Chain of Custody: