

# 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

Civil Law	Criminal Law
Filed by:	Filed by:
Penalty:	Penalty:
	Classes:

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**

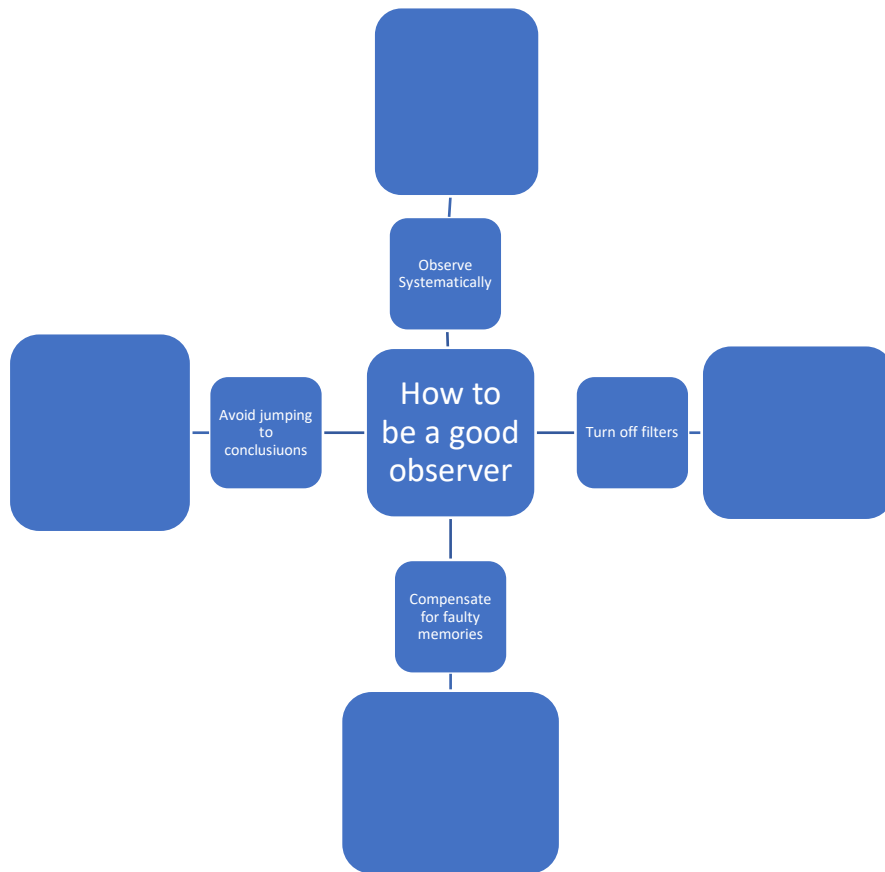
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### **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

- o Direct evidence or Testimonial Evidence:
- o Physical Evidence:
- o Class evidence:
- o Individual evidence:
- o 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:**