

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION PROJECT (H.I.P.)

OBJECTIVE: To explain what you learned in FORENSICS in the context of a fictitious homicide investigation. The more you can tell me about material covered in this class, the higher the grade on this project. **All portions, except the Rough Sketch and Electropherogram, are typed.**

PART I: The Story = 30 points Write 1 to 1 ½ pages using complete sentences telling what happened at the scene. This can be from any perspective (perpetrator, victim, first responder, neighbor, etc.) Do NOT include any science in this section, but you can mention evidence if you want. This is essentially a creative writing assignment.

PART II: Evidence = 170 points This can be in complete sentences or bulleted format.

1. CRIME SCENE:

Describe the crime scene (house, apartment, wooded area, alley, shopping mall, dance club, etc.). Sketch an aerial view of the scene on an 8.5" x 11" piece of paper, with about 10 dimensions. Indicate the location of victim(s), blood, weapons, drugs, clothing, footprints, broken glass, and obvious points of entry or exit.

2. VICTIM(S):

Describe the victim(s) and any obvious wounds. Give ethnicity, approximate age, gender, height and weight.

3. TIME OF DEATH:

Refer to the various mortises, the eyes (vitreous humor and cloudiness), along with stomach contents to establish TOD of your victim(s).

4. AUTOPSY:

Explain the autopsy process from start to finish using your victim as the subject. How did the victim arrive at the ME's office? What was revealed in the external examination? What cuts were used to access parts of the body? Which organs or tissues were examined, and how were they removed? What fluids were recovered for testing? What was discovered?

5. DRUGS:

Were any drugs present? What was tested at the scene, how was it tested, and how was it confirmed? Were they street drugs, or prescription? What schedule do they fall into? Indicate any relevant paraphernalia that was found, e.g. syringes, pipes. Was any alcohol, or evidence of alcohol found?

6. TOXICOLOGY:

Were poisons, common or potential, present at the scene? What were they? Was anything tested at the scene? How was it tested?

7. BLOOD and BLOOD SPATTER:

What type(s) of blood are present? Explain the spatter patterns, and what they reveal.

8. DNA:

Explain the process of building a DNA profile on the victim, the perpetrator, or a crime scene sample. You should include a hand-drawn electropherogram in your report.

9. GUNS/WEAPONS:

Describe any firearms that were recovered, their type (rifle, handgun), and caliber, and whether loaded or spent. Explain how a comparison microscope can be used to match bullets from a scene with an actual gun.

The H.I.P. “drop-dead” due date is 12:30pm on FRIDAY, JUNE 15TH.

This is a hard deadline. No late work is accepted. I accept late work all year, including late lab work, quizzes and tests – but not this assignment. *Think of it like a departing flight.* The airline does not care why you were late, and the plane is leaving without you.

NO SOLOS, TWOS, FIVES, ETC.

This is a group project, consisting of 3- or 4-person teams. It may be easier to do this work by yourself or in a couple. But that’s part of the task – to learn how to work together.

I will not grade late assignments, or projects submitted by a single person, couple, or group of more than 4 people. These will be recorded as an ‘F’ grade, or 50% of the points.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK ELECTRONICALLY

1. Email me your report at stanleyr@hsd.k12.or.us by the above date and time.
2. I will accept **one, and only one, email per group**, so be sure that
 - a. All your files are in that one email – no more than 3 files per email (report, sketch, electropherogram).
 - b. Everyone’s name is in the email, or on the report.
3. I respond to every email, so if you don’t get a response from me, I didn’t get your email.

I understand the above requirements for this assignment.

(signed) _____