

Physical Science

Final Investigator's Report

Due Beginning of Class, Monday, March 3 – 20% penalty for each day or part of day late.

Submit as Google Doc, shared with Mr. H.

As Assistant District Attorney and Chief Forensic Investigator for CSI Westwood, you have uncovered many facts related to the basement laboratory mystery. The District Attorney needs your evidence to decide how to proceed. You need to make your case. Using the evidence that you have gathered from the Kastle-Meyer test, the flame test, and the fingerprint identification, build your case against the person you think is most likely the guilty party.

You're trying to impress your boss, the District Attorney, so that she'll let you handle the rest of the case yourself, and thereby get your name in all the papers and further your budding political career. Make your arguments understandable to adults who only vaguely remember their high school science classes. This means you need to explain in simple scientific terms why you can trust the results of your tests.

Your report must include:

1. A list of the specific evidence you examined. Do not assume the reader knows anything about the crime scene or what was found there – explain it! (15%)
2. Analysis of each of the items in evidence – a detailed, step-by-step, scientific description of the testing you performed, the results you found, and a convincing argument about how much confidence you place in each of these results based on the underlying science. Remember to cite all information that is not common knowledge (things you didn't know before taking this class). Express your confidence as “beyond a reasonable doubt”, or “a preponderance of evidence”, or just “more likely than not”. Note that you have done most of this already; edit your previous analyses to improve them – don't just summarize them. Remember to cite all information that is not common knowledge – things you didn't know before taking this class. (15% each)
3. Your overall interpretation of the evidence and how it leads you to the most likely guilty party. Be sure to explain clearly how each piece of evidence points to the person's possible guilt. Rule out as many of the other five persons of interest as possible. Include what you believe would be possible motives for the perpetrator, and what crime has been or might be committed unless you act quickly. (30%)

You will receive extra points for each of the Forensic Terms on the handout that you can use correctly and appropriately in your report.

Your report must be typewritten, double spaced. Clean, professional formatting, good English grammar and spelling, and clear writing will count for 10% of your evaluation.

You must prepare this report on your own, without any further exchange of ideas, analysis, or information with anyone else including students in other classes, your parents, tutors, or others. Any violation of this will result in a zero score for the assignment, and referral to the administration as a violation of the Academic Integrity policy.