

Cornell Guided Notes

Principles of Biomedical Technology (Principles of Biomedical Science) | 2026-08-31

Name

Period

Date

Lesson

Lesson focus

Ethics of the scene

Key words and questions

Prepared details and student notes

Essential question
What is today's target?

Debate whether investigators should be allowed to alter a scene to collect evidence, and defend your view. Big idea: How you handle a scene determines whether the evidence collected from it can ever be trusted.

My notes, examples, and questions

Key words
What vocabulary unlocks the lesson?

- forensic
- trace evidence
- biometric
- observation
- inference
- chain of custody
- control sample

My notes, examples, and questions

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Cornell Notes - Continued

Key words and questions

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Must-know ideas
What should I understand by the end?

- Chain of custody is the documented record showing who handled evidence, when, and how, from collection to courtroom.
- Disturbing a scene without documentation can contaminate or destroy trace evidence, rendering it inadmissible.
- Every collection decision involves a tradeoff between preserving context and obtaining a sample.

My notes, examples, and questions

Process notes
What happens during class?

- 0:00: Hook: short description of a famous case where scene contamination threw out key evidence
- 0:08: Introduce chain-of-custody concept; students define it in their own words
- 0:18: Read the ethics prompt; list one cost and one benefit of disturbing a scene
- 0:30: Small-group debate: pick a side, argue with one reason grounded in chain of custody
- 0:52: Individual CER writing: position, one piece of evidence, one reasoning sentence
- 1:10: Share two CERs; preview Tuesday scene-documentation content

My notes, examples, and questions

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Steps and evidence What do I do and turn in?

- Read the prompt: When does collecting evidence cross into destroying it?
- List one cost and one benefit of disturbing a scene to gather trace evidence.
- Choose a side: preserve untouched vs. collect aggressively.
- Argue your claim in your group with one reason grounded in chain of custody.
- Post a written CER stating your position and one piece of supporting evidence.

Evidence: CER - Written CER (3-5 sentences) taking a side on whether investigators should disturb a scene to collect evidence, with a chain-of-custody reference in the reasoning.

My notes, examples, and questions

Checks for understanding How do I know I got it?

- I can connect scene handling to chain-of-custody integrity.
- I can defend a claim with a reason and an example.

My notes, examples, and questions

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Cornell Notes - Continued

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Lab or safety notes
What must I handle carefully?

Supplies:

- Compound light microscope
- Prepared and blank microscope slides
- Coverslips
- Forceps
- Trace evidence samples (hair, fiber)
- Evidence log sheet and labels
- Camera or tablet for scene photos

My notes, examples, and questions

Summary

Today's lesson focused on Ethics of the scene. The main target was: Debate whether investigators should be allowed to alter a scene to collect evidence, and defend your view. The evidence of learning is CER: Written CER (3-5 sentences) taking a side on whether investigators should disturb a scene to collect evidence, with a chain-of-custody reference in the reasoning.. In my own words, the most important idea from today is:

My summary

My final question or connection