



OHIO CSI FORENSIC DIVISION

UNIT 1 · MEDICAL INVESTIGATION · CASE STATIC

Period 1-2 · Statik Sound, a neighborhood recording studio

FORM NO. CSI-1-D01
CASE NO. JH-26-0831-A
REV. 2026-27
PAGE ____ OF ____

FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

OHIO CSI FORENSIC DIVISION

DO NOT DISTRIBUTE ANSWER KEYS

DAILY INVESTIGATION PACKET

Aug 31 · Investigation Day 1 of 18

OFFICIAL

THE BRIEFING: WHAT YOU ARE DOING TODAY, AND HOW THE PROS DO IT

SEC 00

The case begins today.

Real detectives and forensic scientists live by one rule: they can only claim what they can show. A detective who is sure a suspect is guilty but has no evidence has no case, while a detective with evidence does not need to be sure, because the evidence speaks for itself. Today you learn to tell what you SEE from what you GUESS, which is the first skill every investigator is taught, and you practice it on your first exhibit.

OBJECTIVE

Today you will join an investigation unit, learn the one rule this whole case runs on, and prove you can tell an observation from an inference from an opinion.

Take-home (the ten-year idea): Evidence earns conclusions. Nothing else does.

For the next five weeks this class is an investigations unit working a death case. Real agencies live and die by one discipline: what you can **SHOW** beats what you **FEEL**, every time. A detective who is sure but has no evidence has nothing. A detective with evidence does not need to be sure; the evidence speaks.

Three kinds of statements will come out of your mouth in this room. An **OBSERVATION** is what your senses record: the stain is reddish-brown, 40 cm from the door. An **INFERENCE** is a conclusion built on observations: the stain's drip pattern suggests it fell from about waist height. An **OPINION** is a feeling with no load-bearing structure: that stain looks suspicious. Only the first two belong in a case file, and they must be labeled as what they are.

Analogy: think of a referee reviewing a replay. The replay footage is observation. The call the referee announces is inference, built strictly on the footage. The crowd booing is opinion. **LIMIT** of the analogy: a replay can be rewound; a crime scene degrades every time someone touches it. That is why tomorrow is about custody.

One more tool you will use every single day: **CER**. Claim (what you say happened), Evidence (the exhibits that support it), Reasoning (the rule that connects them). Every exit slip in this unit is a **CER**. By day 18 you will write a full case report in this structure, and it will feel natural because you practiced it eighteen times.

NEW VOCABULARY (RECORD IN YOUR NOTEBOOK BANK)

SEC 04

TERM	PLAIN-LANGUAGE DEFINITION	ANALOGY TO HOLD ONTO
evidence	a fact or object you can point to that supports or weakens a claim	receipts, not vibes
observation	what your senses actually record	the camera footage
inference	a conclusion you build on top of observations	the referee's call after the replay
bias	anything that pulls your judgment before the evidence gets a vote	rooting for one team while you referee
CER	Claim, Evidence, Reasoning: the sentence structure of every honest conclusion	the load-bearing frame of a report

YOUR ROLE

You are a new investigator taking the unit's entrance exam.

THE SITUATION

Six statements about the same photograph are printed on your exit slip. Some are observations, some are inferences, some are opinions dressed up in confident language.

THE RULE YOU APPLY

Observation = senses only. Inference = observation plus a stated rule. Opinion = neither.

WHAT YOU PRODUCE

Sort all six, then write one CER defending your hardest call.

Claim ceiling. You may classify the statements. You may not conclude anything about what happened in the photo; you were not there and the photo is one angle.

WHAT THIS UNLOCKS

Tomorrow you earn scene access by qualifying on safety and custody.

PLTW ANCHOR AND INTERACTIVE LAYER

REF

Activity 1.1.1 A Sketchy Scene (referenced by title only; all materials in this file are John Hay original work)

- Portal: mendozabiomed.org/learn/pltw-pbt (today's day page and guided notes)

myPLTW student access is down for technical reasons. When it is restored, this day's PLTW anchor is completed online; until then the portal simulation and these printed materials carry the day.

INVESTIGATION TEAM ASSIGNMENTS**SEC 05****A Scene and Documentation**

Draft the team charter; learn the scene-map page you will own.

B Trace

Draft the team charter; preview the comparison exhibits you will own.

C Serology and DNA

Draft the team charter; preview the match matrix you will own.

D Toxicology and Chemistry

Draft the team charter; preview the tox report you will own.

E Medical Examiner

Draft the team charter; preview the body diagram you will own.

F Records and Timeline

Draft the team charter; set up the master timeline spread.

NOTEBOOK PAGES IN USE TODAY**SEC 06**

- Team roster and charter page
- Ethics and custody pledge
- Day 1 Cornell page

DAILY SUBMISSION FORM: ETHICS CER EXIT SLIP**JH-26-0831-A / D1**

- ☐ Six statements sorted O / I / OP
- ☐ One CER defending your hardest call
- ☐ Signed ethics pledge line

INVESTIGATOR (PERIOD + CODE, NO
NAMES)_____
TEAM_____
TIME SUBMITTED