**Direct Evidence:** evidence that (if true) proves an alleged fact, such as an eye witness account of a crime.

* Includes first hand observations such as an eyewitness account or a police dashboard video.
* Also includes confessions.

Example: a witness states that she saw a defendant pointing a gun at a victim during a robbery.

*Question: Give another example of direct evidence.*

**Circumstantial Evidence:** indirect evidence used to imply a fact but not prove it directly.

*\*No one, other than the suspect and victim, actually sees when circumstantial evidence is left at the crime scene. \**

* Can either be physical or biological in nature.

***Physical Evidence includes:*** fingerprints, footprints, shoe prints, tire impressions, tool marks, fibers, weapons, bullets, and shell casings.

***Biological Evidence includes:*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in, in your notes, your ideas about what could be biological evidence.

**Class Evidence:** material that connects an individual or thing to a certain group; narrows identity to a ***group*** of persons or things.

Example: knowing that ABO blood type of a sample of blood from a crime scene tells us that one of many persons with that blood type may have been there.

\*Class evidence will narrow the field of suspects to a group of people but not to one person\*

*Question: What is another type of class evidence?*

**Individual Evidence:** a kind of evidence that identifies a particular person, place or thing.

*\*Individual evidence will narrow the field of suspects to a single person or thing\**

* Typically, individual evidence has such a unique combination of characteristics that it could only belong to one person or thing.

*Example: fingerprint*

*Question: What is another example of individual evidence?*

**The Crime Scene Team**

- made up of legal and scientific professionals who work together to solve the crime

- may include: police officers, district attorneys, medical examiners and scientific specialists

- Continue around to learn about the specific jobs each of these people performs.

*- Question: Who is/are (an)other professional(s) that might have a place at a crime scene?*

**Police Officers**

- Usually the first to arrive at a crime scene.

- They are the first line of defense for securing the perimeter of the crime scene and preserving evidence for the forensic investigators.

*- Question: How else might police officers be useful at a crime scene?*

**Crime Scene Investigators**

- Must document the crime scene in detail and collect physical evidence.

- Includes:

* Recorders: to track and record data
* Sketch artists: to sketch the crime scene
* Photographers: to document the crime scene with photographs
* Evidence Collectors: to preserve and document evidence at the crime scene

*Question: What type of information would the recorder need to gather from the first-responding police officer?*

**Medical Examiners**

- Also called coroners

- May be necessary to determine the cause of death

- In order to preserve as much evidence as possible, no bodies, if deceased on arrival, are allowed to be moved until the coroner arrives.

- Most of the work a coroner does is not at the crime scene but back at the medical examiner’s office.

*Question: What is the main task of the medical examiner?*

**Detectives**

- The main job of detectives is to gather information from witnesses and the surrounding areas.

-Detectives are the main hub of information at the crime scene. They must stay in contact with each of the other team members and compile the information to form leads.

*Question: What information does the detective need from the crime scene sketch artist?*

**Specialists**

- Are required only when the circumstances of the case dictate.

Includes:

* Entomologists: insect biologists
* Forensic scientists
* Forensic psychologists

*Question: What circumstances would require the use of a forensic entomologist?*