

Observation Skills in Forensic Science

The forensic examiner must be able to

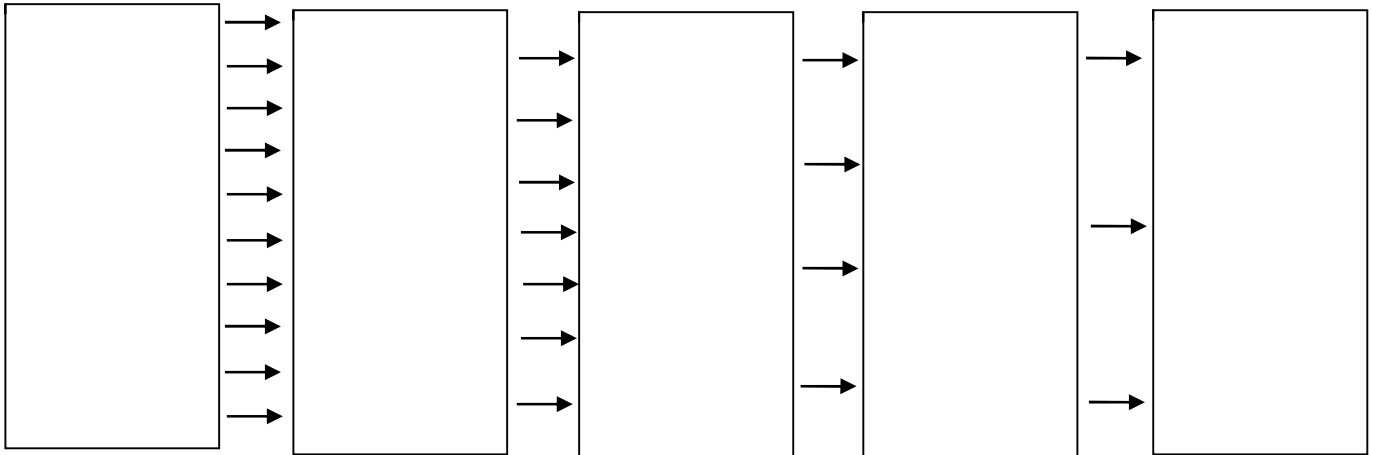
- 1) _____ - identify the evidence
- 2) _____ - record the evidence
- 3) _____ - accurately determine the significance of the evidence

Importance of Observation

- When testifying what you observed, you MUST know _____ months after you made them

Inadequate information and details will allow _____

What is Observation?



Our brain can _____ out information, as well as fill in _____ in our perception

- in order to make sense of what we perceive, our brains often enrich with detail what we _____, _____, _____, _____ or _____
- after an event, we can believe things were part of the _____ even though they were not.

Our brains apply previous _____ to new situations.

Observations by Witnesses

When witnesses are interviewed, their observations are affected by:

- 1) their _____ states
- 2) whether they were _____ or part of a _____
- 3) whether _____ were in the area

4) what type of and how much _____ was going on

5) _____, personal beliefs, motives and any lapse in time since the occurrence

How to be a good eyewitness:

You want to describe:

- _____ was involved?
- _____ happened?
- _____ did it take place?
- _____ did it take place?
- _____ did it happen?
- Anything else _____ or out of the ordinary

How to be a good Forensic Science Observer:

- 1) Observe _____
 - start at one part of the crime scene and run your eyes slowly over every space
 - slowly look at every part of a piece of evidence
- 2) Turn off _____
 - don't pay attention to only what you THINK is important
 - make a conscious effort to pay attention to all the details in your surroundings
- 3) Leave the final _____ of data until later
 - look for patterns and make connections
 - more information obtained, the better the interpretation
- 4) _____
 - Write down and photograph as much as possible

Tools used to enhance observations:

- _____ and _____
- _____ provide fast, low-cost, and definitive results
- _____ and _____ lights can reveal hidden evidence our eyes can't see