

DLR



Forensic Science

Crime Scene Investigation Activity

scenario add-on
with extra printables

Teacher Notes

This is an activity that works with the [Crime Scene Investigation Activity](#). It can be paired with the printables and other worksheets found in the CSI Activity or it can be used independently. The printables included in this activity are a mock divorce letter and business cards to hint at infidelity/moving/divorce scenario. Also there's a fake grocery list.

The fastest crime scene to set up is using a vehicle. You can setup without reserving a separate room or using your classroom and disrupting other classroom activities. Many people keep so much stuff in their vehicles that with no setup, it's already a treasure trove of evidence and information. I've used an entire 45 minute class period for explaining the assignment and collecting evidence. The next class period can be used to process the evidence or evidence processing can wait. Remember to check the weather when scheduling this activity.

Remember to follow all school rules pertaining to student vehicle access and use of parking lots during the school day. With responsible students, it can be fun to use their own cars as pretend crime scenes. Usually I pair students up and give a full day warning (so that they can decide whose car to use and that student can prepare for the activity, either they try to sterilize their car or they try to add easy evidence). When they use their own cars, I focus on proper evidence processing and examination instead of a crime mystery. Occasionally I used my own car (small classes are best for this because of the limited amount of evidence). When using my car, I make the plot a total mystery. They have a more difficult time finding evidence, so I always stay close to make sure they don't miss evidence critical to solving the crime and to make sure that they don't do anything weird to my car. If you are using your car, remember to remove your vehicle registration, insurance information, and any personal belongings that you might not readily notice but students would love to find.

The CSI Activity includes printables for fake fingerprints, hair and DNA samples. Remember to hide things inside the pockets of clothing, the glove box, or other compartments.

Ideas for car evidence:

- ◆ leave actual fingerprints and hairs (i.e. lotion your hand and press the interior driver side window like you are telling someone to stop or go away, maybe get another to leave villain prints)
- ◆ receipts that can aid in establishing a timeline or personal habits of the victim
- ◆ sports equipment, books, other personal belongings that indicate lifestyle/habits of victim
- ◆ using butcher paper, cheerleading sign paper or packing paper to take tire tread prints (remember to follow rules on students and vehicle access/driving during the school day)
- ◆ fibers that are connected to something not in the car (a fuzzy sweater that could be missing or connected to another crime and found elsewhere)
- ◆ documents - divorce paper, personal notes, business cards, grocery list, etc.
- ◆ tech - you could create fake audio between the victim and onstar or a fake GPS report that was extracted from the car's nav system
- ◆ smarties to simulate pills/drugs found at the scene

Some evidence can add to the storyline but could be difficult to acquire or simulate. For example, maybe there's a dead body at the scene but you don't have time to make a fake dead body. Just make a chalk outline and give students a copy of the autopsy report worksheet found in the full CSI Activity. Fill in the autopsy report with details pertinent to the crime and consider giving different groups different autopsy reports (this will deter cheating). For DNA evidence, just leave a lipstick smudge on some kind of to-go cup and provide the students with a DNA report on the information (only if they find the cup and ask for DNA info).

For extending vehicle evidence collection into a longer crime scene investigation, download the Crime Scene Investigation Activity. Use the vehicle evidence report (included in this doc) for a short activity with simple identifiers (i.e. blonde hair is found, the CSI activity has a sheet for more detailed hair analysis, writing a physical description of the crime instead of using a full sketch page, simply listing evidence instead of packaging, etc.).

The [Crime Scene Investigation Activity](#) includes:

- ◆ Scene Prep Page
- ◆ Person Profile
- ◆ Autopsy Report Form
- ◆ Evidence Label
- ◆ Chain of Custody Label
- ◆ Student Role Designations Page
- ◆ Scene Sketch Worksheet
- ◆ Photography Log
- ◆ Warrant Requests
- ◆ Witness Interview Notes
- ◆ Crime Scene Timeline
- ◆ Crime Scene Reconstruction
- ◆ Fingerprints, Hair, and DNA activity sections each include:
 - ◆ Fake evidence (printables)
 - ◆ Evidence Information
 - ◆ Activity/Review Worksheets
 - ◆ Crime Scene Report Worksheet
 - ◆ Quiz

Possible Vehicle Crime Scene Investigation Scenarios

Directions: For this assignment, you will examine a vehicle for biological and physical evidence.

Scenario 1

Your teacher is missing. Your teacher was last seen at school. Police were notified of the disappearance after your teacher missed a regularly scheduled weekly dinner with family. Gather evidence from the vehicle in order to solve the mystery. Process the evidence and write a report in which you explain what happened to your teacher, who is responsible, and the motives for the disappearance.

I was vague with this scenario because I do not know the gender of the teacher but adding in details pertinent to a specific teacher could be fun - like afternoon schedule, driving habits etc.

Scenario 2

Your friend is missing. She left home this morning but didn't make it to first period. None of your friends have received communication from her since the bell rang. Gather evidence from the vehicle in order to solve the mystery. Process the evidence and write a report in which you explain what happened to your friend, who is responsible, and the motives for the disappearance.

This would require you to get a student volunteer and add some evidence to the car (i.e. a hate note, secret receipts, text messages, planner with a note about meeting someone.)

Scenario 3

Oops, you left your car unlocked and some of your personal belongings are missing. Gather evidence from the vehicle in order to solve the mystery. Process the evidence and write a report in which you identify the thief, what was stolen and the timeline of events.

Students could pretend that something is missing and focus on gathering hair, fingerprint and DNA evidence that the thief left behind. You could designate a student to be the thief, put their hair/prints in the car and require the students to test each other's hair and fingerprints to identify the thief. A piece of evidence would have to hint at the thief being a member of the class.

Vehicle Crime Scene Investigation

Date:

Investigators:

Car Make and Model:

Physical Description of Scene/Location:

Vehicle Exterior:

Vehicle Interior:

Victim Description:

Miscellaneous Notes:

Vehicle Crime Scene Investigation

Assigned On: _____

Due Date: _____

Student(s): _____

Vehicle: _____

Section	Content	Points Possible	Points Earned
Scene Description	Describe the weather, location of the vehicle, anything surrounding/near the vehicle.	5	_____
Vehicle Description	Describe the interior and exterior of the vehicle. Is it clean? Is it organized? Include information about the windows, paint, tires, upholstery, dashboard, glove box, position of the mirrors, etc.? What about the trunk?	5	_____
Victim Description	Who is the victim? Age? Gender? Job? Family/friends? Lifestyle/habits?	5	_____
Evidence Analysis	Identify and describe the evidence. What is the significance of each piece of evidence?	10	_____
Crime Report	Write a summary of the crime. Explain what happened, be sure to incorporate all the evidence.	15	_____
Extra Credit	Exceptionally creative storyline or hilarious details.	2	_____
TOTAL		40	_____

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Monday, December 5, 2016

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saul Neidermeyer', written in a cursive style.

Saul Neidermeyer

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**Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is
old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6**

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