

Forensic Science

Unit Over-view

Winter Term 2009-2010

Beth White, Science Teacher



Course Description

Have you ever dreamed about becoming a detective? Are you fascinated by the CSI TV shows or Court TV? Forensic science utilizes various types of science and technology in all aspects of the investigation. It covers nearly every science realm including biology, chemistry, physics and biotechnology. By applying these sciences, forensic investigators can depict the crime scene and figure out what really happened and then use that knowledge in a court of law.

However, being a good scientist is not enough! Skills in detective work, analysis and problem solving helps with locating clues that lead to evidence and convictions. This class will explore the science, technology and critical thinking and problem solving it takes to do good forensic work.

Learning Goals

- Understand the history of forensic science and criminal justice
- Develop basic skills in observation, data collection, and data analysis
- Understand, collect and analysis of fingerprints
- Understand the structure of hair and how it is analyzed in forensic investigations
- Understand blood type and how it is analyzed in forensic investigations
- Analyze and synthesize several pieces of data to reach a conclusion
- Understand and perform scientific inquiry
- Clearly communicate results of scientific inquiry

Assessment

You will be graded on the following criteria:

- Class participation: how well you focus on your work, stay on task and contribute to group discussions
- Weekly investigative reports/Lab Write-Ups and homework assignments on forensic topics (fingerprints, hair and fiber, and blood)
- Forensic science readings
- Book Assignment and Evidence Box Final Project
- Final Crime Scene Analysis: Mock At-home Crime Scene with Photographs

Please Note: The Weekly Unit Outline below is subject to change and I will do my best to inform you of any changes in advance.

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Opening Day Activity

You've come upon a crime scene. Ask **Beth** questions about the scene and the body. Anything you can think of... who has been there, markings, characteristics, etc. For example, is there any strange odors? Was there anything in his pocket?

Take notes (in bullet form) below... as many as you can, about this crime!