

Crime Scene Competition
Region III - American Criminal Justice Association (LAE)

Having Criminal Investigation and Homicide Investigation may be of benefit in this competition, but for the most part it involves seeing conditions and leading you to questions that will take you to the next step. You bring the information from the various steps and determine what happened at the crime scene.

2 phases

1. Crime scene with referee/observer

Tell them what you are doing.

Ask questions of the observer (the worst they can say is "I can't tell you" or "I don't know")

Has the autopsy been completed?

What are the results?

The toxicology report?

Were there any more witnesses?

The neighborhood canvas?

What witness have been interviewed by initially responding officers

2. Written Report

If you miss something in first part you may be able to compensate in the report.

You will have 15 min. at the scene and 45 min to complete the report.

If protective equipment is present at the entrance indicate that you will put it on. If not, indicate that you would put on individual protective equipment to insure hand, foot, and face protection.

Assume nothing (is the red discoloration on the body blood, lividity, or paint?)

Expand your timeline (your 1 hour is your entire investigative time. In other words everything you would do over the next several weeks is compressed into this time period.)

If not sure about condition of body ask.

Is there a presence of rigor mortis, lividity?

What is the body temperature?

What terms are used and need to be understood? If so, ask the referee.

Lividity

Rigor mortis

Contre coup & coup

Defensive wounds, etc.

Where to look for evidence:

Area where body found

Areas of major disturbance

Areas of minor disturbance

Areas that seem to contain things that are out of place or don't belong here

Areas that seem to contain things that should be here but are not

Point of entry

Point of exit

Entire path of the suspect to the crime scene and away from the crime scene

Primary and secondary crime scenes:

- Vehicle
- Outdoors
- Less obvious places

Try to determine background of victim, suspect, and if necessary witnesses.

What types of tests were used?

What evidence is found on the floor, and other surfaces?

What areas were dusted for prints?

Witnesses - reinterview them all
Is there any new information?

May not want to disturb evidence, but ask what you would find if you searched or processed it.

Crime scene sketch - do a preliminary rough sketch ahead of time if room layout is known

Ask questions about each of these areas.

- Scene
- Victim
- Suspects

- Protective Garments
- Dust for prints
- Vehicles
- Body
- Evidence
- Search Vicinity
- Witnesses
- Where search for evidence