

Chapter 2: Documenting the Crime Scene: Note Taking, Photographing and Sketching

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which are permanent written records of the facts of a case to be used in further investigation, in writing reports and in prosecuting the case?
- a. field notes
 - b. tape recordings
 - c. investigative notes
 - d. stenographer notes

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 42
OBJ: Explain why notes are important in an investigation.

2. Record all information that helps to answer the questions of
- a. Who? What? Which? When? How? and Why?
 - b. Who? What? Where? When? How? and Why?
 - c. Which? When? Why? Where? and How many?
 - d. Why? When? and Why or why not?

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 43 OBJ: Discuss what to record.

3. When taking notes, the investigator should
- a. ignore unimportant items.
 - b. write only the important items.
 - c. learn to select key facts and record them in abbreviated form.
 - d. never take notes but always memorize things verbatim and record them later.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 44 OBJ: Discuss what to record.

4. One of the disadvantages of photographs is that
- a. they can be taken immediately and thus the crime scene processors have not prepared the scene.
 - b. they are not selective.
 - c. they are not admissible into court.
 - d. they are only allowed in court if black and white.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 47
OBJ: Compare and contrast advantages and disadvantages of crime scene photography and videography.

5. When taking photographs/videotape, the investigator should
- a. take the primary points of concern or interest.
 - b. take only those shots wanted by the prosecutor.
 - c. examine the scene from all sides and take only the sides of the crime scene that show the best view.
 - d. take sufficient photographs and/or videotape to reconstruct the entire scene.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 50
OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

6. Types of investigative photography include
- a. crime scene and mug shots.
 - b. aerial, night and laboratory pictures.
 - c. lineup photographs and those related to crime scenes.
 - d. all of these choices.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 51
OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

7. Which of the following does a crime scene sketch accomplish?
- accurately portrays the physical facts
 - relates to the sequence of events at the scene
 - establishes the precise location and relationship of objects and evidence at the scene
 - all of these choices

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 56
OBJ: Explain the various purposes of crime scene sketches.

8. The basic purpose of field notes is to
- show the officer was at the scene.
 - show the date and time of the incident.
 - record all facts of the incident.
 - all of these choices.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 45
OBJ: Describe characteristics of effective notes.

9. The amount of notes taken is determined by
- the conditions of each case.
 - whether the crime is a felony or not.
 - department policy and procedure.
 - calls for service.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 43 OBJ: Discuss what to record.

10. Which plotting method establishes a straight line from one fixed point to another fixed point from which measurements are taken at right angles?
- baseline
 - rectangular-coordinate
 - triangulation
 - cross-projection

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 60
OBJ: Differentiate between the different plotting methods used in sketches.

11. The photographic technique in which a scene is photographed clockwise, with the first picture showing a specific object on one side of the photograph and the next picture showing the same object on the opposite side of the photograph, is called
- scoping.
 - cross-projection photography.
 - overlapping.
 - triangulation.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 50
OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

12. The Bertillon identification system includes
- a written description of a person.
 - a person's complete criminal record.
 - a photograph.
 - both a written description of a person and a photograph.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 54
OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

13. Which type of camera is more likely to result in convictions?
- a. Polaroid
 - b. medium-format camera
 - c. point-and-shoot camera
 - d. video camera

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 48
OBJ: Decide on proper photographic equipment needed.

14. Which of the following is *not* a disadvantage of photographs?
- a. They do not show actual distances.
 - b. They are not selective.
 - c. They may be distorted.
 - d. Photographs are always admissible in court.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 47
OBJ: Compare and contrast advantages and disadvantages of crime scene photography and videography.

15. According to a national video forensics expert, what is the “new DNA for law enforcement”?
- a. fingerprints
 - b. tire tracks
 - c. footprints
 - d. video analysis

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 52
OBJ: Compare and contrast advantages and disadvantages of crime scene photography and videography.

16. The main problem with night photography is
- a. lack of color.
 - b. shadows.
 - c. the cost of calling out a photographer.
 - d. proper illumination.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 53
OBJ: Describe technical errors to avoid.

17. Admissible photographs must be
- a. noninflammatory.
 - b. material.
 - c. relevant.
 - d. all of these choices.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 55
OBJ: Illustrate the basic rules to which evidence photographs must adhere.

18. Photographs should be taken
- a. before officers leave the scene.
 - b. only after the investigators complete a crime scene sketch.
 - c. before tending to emergencies, to show the “true” scene as officers found it.
 - d. before anything is disturbed.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 51
OBJ: Describe technical errors to avoid.

19. Sketch all serious crime and crash scenes
- a. after taking photographs.
 - b. before anything is moved.
 - c. both after taking photographs and before anything is moved.
 - d. neither after taking photographs nor before anything is moved.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 57

OBJ: Identify what evidence to sketch.

20. Many agencies fail to do this with those tasked with videotaping a crime scene:
- provide enough videotape.
 - provide adequate training.
 - provide adequate supervision.
 - provide enough portable power sources.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 47

OBJ: Compare and contrast advantages and disadvantages of crime scene photography and videography.

21. Photographs should be taken in the following order:
- specific objects, specific area, general area.
 - specific area, general area, specific objects.
 - general area, specific area, specific objects.
 - micro to macro in all cases.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

22. This type of photography may be best used for extensive, large-scale, outside areas:
- flash photography.
 - aerial photography.
 - painting with light.
 - walking flash.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: pp. 52-53

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

23. Writing on the back of your photographs to identify them later is referred to as
- stacking.
 - backing.
 - cataloging.
 - back-dating.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 55

OBJ: Illustrate the basic rules to which evidence photographs must adhere.

24. Showing the relationship between evidence on the walls and the floors of a room, by flattening out the walls on the sketch, allowing the viewer to look straight down into the sketch, is best done using which of the following methods?
- compass-point
 - cross-projection
 - rectangular-coordination
 - doll-house

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 61

OBJ: Differentiate between the different plotting methods used in sketches.

25. Which type of photography is often used to establish the identity of a subject, a location and in some cases criminal behavior?
- surveillance
 - infra-red
 - digital
 - mobile

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: pp. 51-52

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

26. Which process would enlarge the evidence to be viewed?
- microphotography
 - macrophotography
 - paleontology
 - odontology

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 54
OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

27. In which direction should the top of a sketch be oriented?
- a. west
 - b. north
 - c. south
 - d. east

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 58
OBJ: Write the steps to take in making a rough sketch.

28. Crime scene photographs are
- a. substitutes for sketches.
 - b. substitutes for notes.
 - c. better than sketches.
 - d. none of these choices.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 56
OBJ: Explain the various purposes of crime scene sketches.

29. Providing proof that the image introduced into evidence is the same image taken at the crime scene is referred to as
- a. redundancy.
 - b. image authentication.
 - c. concrete evidence.
 - d. pictometry.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 56
OBJ: Illustrate the basic rules to which evidence photographs must adhere.

30. A sketch drawn or personally witnessed by an investigator that accurately portrays a crime scene and that is allowed into evidence is referred to as what type of sketch?
- a. freehand
 - b. exculpatory
 - c. admissible
 - d. courtroom

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 67
OBJ: Clarify when a sketch or a scale drawing is admissible in court.

31. Which of the following statements about photographic resolution is *not* true?
- a. Resolution is commonly quantified by pixels.
 - b. An image photographed with a high-resolution camera, if printed on a low-resolution printer, will not show fine detail clearly.
 - c. A megapixel is roughly equivalent to a thousand dots.
 - d. A low-resolution image, if enlarged too much, will lose quality.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 50
OBJ: Describe technical errors to avoid.

32. Record in notes the following items at the crime scene:
- a. services rendered.
 - b. weather conditions.
 - c. name, address and phone number of every person present.
 - d. all of these choices.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: pp. 43-44 OBJ: Discuss what to record.

33. Which type of photograph would best capture the immediate crime scene and the location of objects in the area or room?
- a. long-range shot
 - b. medium-range shot
 - c. close-range shot
 - d. none of these choices

REF: p. 51

OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

- a. an aerial view.
- b. an exploded view.
- c. immersive imaging.
- d. walkthrough imaging.

REF: p. 49

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

- a. the deceased
- b. weapons
- c. fragile evidence
- d. witnesses

REF: p. 50

OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

- flash and marker
- ruler and a pencil
- tripod and cable release
- macrolens and flashlight set at an oblique angle

REF: p. 48

OBJ: Decide on proper photographic equipment needed.

- a. tripod cameras.
- b. fingerprint cameras.
- c. backlit cameras.
- d. blacklight cameras.

REF: p. 48

OBJ: Decide on proper photographic equipment needed.

TRUE/FALSE

38. Digital photographs can create a virtual scene similar to Pictometry.

REF: p. 53

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

39. Evidence not discernible to the naked eye can be detected by laser-beam photography.

REF: p. 54

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

40. Notes are not admissible in court.

REF: p. 46

OBJ: Explain why notes are important in an investigation.

41. The purpose of a marker in a photograph is to show the location of the specific object being photographed.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 51

OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

42. Microphotography is useful in criminal investigations because it renders bruises and injuries visible long after their actual occurrence.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 54

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

43. The first step in sketching a crime scene is to outline the area and the crime.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 57

OBJ: Write the steps to take in making a rough sketch.

44. The basic purpose of crime scene photography is to record the entire crime scene permanently.

ANS: T PTS: 1 REF: p. 46

OBJ: Discuss purposes of crime scene photography.

45. The basic purpose of note taking is to convict and punish offenders.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 45

OBJ: Describe characteristics of effective notes.

46. A notebook is only a temporary report to record facts and has no real evidentiary value in itself.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 46

OBJ: Describe characteristics of effective notes.

47. The advantages of videos include accurate representation of a crime scene and evidence, ability to show distance and sound capability to more fully document what is being seen.

ANS: T PTS: 1 REF: p. 47

OBJ: Compare and contrast advantages and disadvantages of crime scene photography and videography.

48. Photographs and videotapes reproduce the crime scene in detail primarily for presentation to the media.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 46

OBJ: Discuss purposes of crime scene photography.

49. Digital cameras have not yet been approved for court use for crime scene photography.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: pp. 47-48

OBJ: Decide on proper photographic equipment needed.

50. To be admissible in court, photographs must be material, relevant, competent, accurate, free of distortion and noninflammatory.

OBJ: Describe technical errors to avoid.

COMPLETION

61. One of the ways a crime scene sketch can be used to assist an investigation is to _____ people.

ANS: interview

PTS: 1 REF: p. 56

OBJ: Explain the various purposes of crime scene sketches.

62. _____ is commonly used in outdoor scenes but can also be used indoors. This process of locating evidence or other items uses straight-line measures from two fixed objects.

ANS: Triangulation

PTS: 1 REF: p. 60

OBJ: Differentiate between the different plotting methods used in sketches.

63. A sketch that is drawn or personally witnessed by an investigator, that accurately portrays a crime scene and that is introduced as evidence is referred to as a(n) _____ sketch.

ANS: admissible

PTS: 1 REF: p. 67

OBJ: Clarify when a sketch or a scale drawing is admissible in court.

64. Mug shots can be used in _____ lineups to help identify suspects.

ANS: photographic

PTS: 1 REF: p. 54

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

65. Writing your initials, the date the photo was taken, what the photo depicts and the direction of north on the back of a photograph is a procedure called _____.

ANS: backing

PTS: 1 REF: p. 55

OBJ: Illustrate the basic rules to which evidence photographs must adhere.

66. The plotting method restricted to square or rectangular areas is the _____-coordinate method.

ANS: rectangular

PTS: 1 REF: p. 60

OBJ: Differentiate between the different plotting methods used in sketches.

67. A crime scene sketch contains, among other things, the scale of the sketch, the direction of north and the name of the person making the sketch. This is referred to as the _____.

ANS: legend

PTS: 1

REF: p. 63

OBJ: Write the steps to take in making a rough sketch.

68. The technique in which a scene is photographed clockwise, with the first picture showing an object on the right side of the photograph and the next picture showing the same object on the left side of the photograph, is called _____.

ANS: overlapping

PTS: 1

REF: p. 50

OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

69. Take _____ shots first because they are the most subject to alteration by weather and security violations.

ANS: exterior

PTS: 1

REF: p. 50

OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

70. To overcome defense challenges that a digital image was altered or otherwise tampered with, investigators must rigorously maintain the _____.

ANS: chain of custody

PTS: 1

REF: p. 55

OBJ: Illustrate the basic rules to which evidence photographs must adhere.

71. Enhanced surveillance capability can be provided by using _____, thereby collecting critical intelligence without exposing officers.

ANS: robots

PTS: 1

REF: p. 52

OBJ: Decide on proper photographic equipment needed.

SHORT ANSWER

72. When should the investigator start taking notes?

ANS:

Start taking notes as soon as possible after receiving a call to respond, and continue recording information as it is received throughout the investigation.

PTS: 1

REF: p. 42

OBJ: Demonstrate when to take notes.

73. What type of items would one photograph in a laboratory?

ANS:

Not all investigative photography is done in the field. Sometimes objects are photographed in a laboratory with special equipment that is too large, delicate, or expensive to use in the field. For example, infrared film photographs can reveal the contents of unopened envelopes, bloodstains, alterations to documents, variations in types of ink, and residue near where a bullet has passed through clothing. X-ray cameras can detect loaded dice.

Microphotography takes pictures through a microscope and can help identify minute particles of evidence such as hairs or fibers. In contrast, macrophotography enlarges a subject. For example, a fingerprint or a tool mark can be greatly enlarged to show the details of ridges or striations.

PTS: 1 REF: pp. 53-54

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

74. What is immersive imaging?

ANS:

Immersive imaging is a type of 360-degree photographic view. Crime Scene Virtual Tour (CSVV) software lets jurors virtually step into a crime scene. The software allows the scene to be viewed from any angle with zoom, pan, tilt, and rotate features. If a witness claims to have been standing at a certain place, an investigator can virtually go there to view that perspective.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 49

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

75. What kind of camera is useful for photographing trace evidence such as bloodstains and tool marks?

ANS:

Fingerprint cameras are specially constructed to take pictures of fingerprints without distortion. This camera can also photograph trace evidence such as bloodstains and tool marks.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 48 OBJ: Decide on proper photographic equipment needed.

76. What are trip cameras, and what are they used for?

ANS:

Trip cameras (cameras that set themselves off) are helpful in surveillance.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 48 OBJ: Decide on proper photographic equipment needed.

77. What typically determines where and how notes are to be filed?

ANS:

Department policy usually determines where and how notes are filed.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 45

OBJ: Decide which notes to retain and where to file them.

78. Imagine you are at the scene of a car accident involving two vehicles and a pedestrian. What evidence would you sketch?

ANS:

All crash scenes should be sketched after photographs are taken and before anything is moved. Sketch the entire scene, the objects and the evidence. For a car accident with two vehicles and a pedestrian, a sketch should include the following, at a minimum: placement of the vehicles, the pedestrian, the stop light or stop sign, the lanes and direction of traffic, any obstacles (visual or physical) in the area, and all permanent fixtures such as buildings, benches, planters, etc.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 57 OBJ: Identify what evidence to sketch.

79. When creating a scale drawing of a crime scene, what does an officer need to consider in order for the drawing to be admissible in court?

ANS:

An admissible sketch is drawn or personally witnessed by an investigator and accurately portrays a crime scene. A scale drawing also is admissible if the investigating officer drew it or approved it after it was drawn and if it accurately represents the rough sketch. The rough sketch must remain available as evidence.

PTS: 1 REF: pp. 66-67
OBJ: Clarify when a sketch or a scale drawing is admissible in court.

80. Briefly outline the six steps in making a sketch of a crime scene.

ANS:

To sketch a crime scene, the six steps are:

- Observe and plan.
- Measure distances and outline the area.
- Plot objects and evidence within the outline.
- Take notes and record details.
- Identify the sketch with a legend and a scale.
- Reassess the sketch.

PTS: 1 REF: pp. 57-63 OBJ: Write the steps to take in making a rough sketch.

81. Imagine you are at the scene of a homicide. The victim was murdered on the sidewalk in front of a public building on a busy street. Briefly record the photographs you need to take, and in what order they should be taken.

ANS:

First, photograph the general area. This would include the street scene, the sidewalk, the front of the building and any other general areas in the vicinity of the crime scene. Then photograph specific areas, which would include the placement of the body, from all views. Specific areas might also include the entrance to the building, if the victim was shot going into or coming out of the building, or a nearby parked car, if the victim was getting out of or into the car. Finally, photograph specific objects of evidence such as the weapon, any bullet casing or shells, blood stains or spatter, articles of clothing or any other type of physical evidence. Exterior shots should be taken first because they are the most subject to alteration by weather and security violations.

PTS: 1 REF: pp. 50-51
OBJ: Determine what to photograph at a crime scene and in what sequence.

82. Explain what conditions a photograph needs to satisfy in order to be admitted as evidence in court.

ANS:

Photographs must be material, relevant, competent, accurate, free of distortion and noninflammatory to be admissible in court.

PTS: 1 REF: pp. 55-56

OBJ: Illustrate the basic rules to which evidence photographs must adhere.

83. How long does evidence, including photographic evidence, need to be kept?

ANS:

Appeals have been granted as long as 20 years after convictions, with the defendant being granted a new trial. Because of this, many officers retain their notes indefinitely.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 45

OBJ: Decide which notes to retain and where to file them.

84. When would it be appropriate to use surveillance photography?

ANS:

Surveillance photography establishes the identity of a subject or records criminal behavior without the photographer's presence being known to the subject. The photographs or video can help identify a suspect's associates, destroy an alibi, plan a raid or develop a surveillance plan. With a well-thought out plan, surveillance tapes can potentially be a "real force multiplier for law enforcement agencies of any size."

PTS: 1 REF: pp. 51-52

OBJ: Compare and contrast the types of photography used in criminal investigations.

85. What are some of the advantages of videos?

ANS:

Some advantages of videos are: they accurately represent the crime scene and evidence; they are able to show distance more clearly than photos; and they have sound capability to more fully document what is being seen.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 47

OBJ: Compare and contrast advantages and disadvantages of crime scene photography and videography.

86. What are some of the disadvantages of videos?

ANS:

A disadvantage of videos is that many people mistakenly believe that no training in videotaping is necessary. This can lead to poor video quality and a diminished value in the video's documentation of the crime scene.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 47

OBJ: Compare and contrast advantages and disadvantages of crime scene photography and videography.