



CT CONSORTIUM FOR LAW & CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION, INC.

The Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education, Inc. is a private, non-profit association that promotes and conducts law-related education programs and projects in Connecticut's public and private schools, courtrooms and communities. Its goal is the incorporation of citizenship education into the curriculum of all schools, from kindergarten through high school. Maintaining democracy is not an easy task; law-related education helps students learn to be effective, active, participating citizens who can sustain, preserve, and foster our free democratic society. Established in 1976, the Consortium is co-sponsored by the active participation of a number of private and public groups throughout the state.

FORENSICS CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION COMPETITION!!!!!!!

This competition will provide a hands-on interdisciplinary educational event for high school students. High school students will demonstrate their knowledge of forensic science, criminal investigation, and the law by conducting a realistic and comprehensive criminal investigation of a fictional crime. Students will be provided a fictional fact pattern of a crime and will conduct an investigation of that crime using a simulated crime scene containing real physical evidence and interrogating live “suspects.”

This year there will be a competition to be held on May 14, 2010 at the University of New Haven Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences Dodds Building, co-Sponsored by the University of New Haven Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences.

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Competition Guidelines

All rounds of the CCLCE Connecticut Forensics Crime Scene Investigation Competition are governed by these rules. Each competitor and coach should be thoroughly familiar with these rules. Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification. Consequences will be determined by the competition coordinator(s).

I. Competition Rules:

- 1. Selection of participating teams: Teams must register on line at www.cclce.org.** The registration deadline is March 19, 2010. There will be a maximum of 6 teams chosen through random lottery drawing for the competition. There will be a registration fee of \$150 per team due prior to the competition date, that includes team competition equipment, food provided and student gift bags. Checks should be made payable to and sent to CCLCE. **WE MUST HAVE A COMMITMENT THAT ALL TEAMS REGISTERED AND/OR CHOSEN VIA THE LOTTERY WILL COMPETE.** If any team chosen in the lottery is unable to compete you MUST notify the CCLCE ASAP so that the spot can be given to another team that did not get chosen in the original lottery. Thank you for your cooperation.
- 2. Role of teachers/advisors at the competition:** Teachers will NOT be allowed to be with the students from the beginning of the rotations until the completion of their presentation preparation, including the lunch/group time period. (9:00 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.) Teachers will rejoin their teams at 1:40 p.m. to view the presentation and go on the group tour. Each team will be assigned an adult team guide provided by the CCLCE to supervise, guide and chaperone the students throughout the day's activities. Students must stay with their assigned guide and may not leave their designated areas without permission. Teachers will be provided separate programming through which they may earn ceu's.
- 3. Unauthorized communications:** There will be no unauthorized communication between the team students and any teacher or advisor from the start of the rotations to the completion of the presentation preparations. This includes any verbal, non-verbal gestures, written, cell phone, text message or email communications between a student and his or her teacher or advisor without the supervision of competition personnel. If a teacher or advisor needs to speak to a student he or she must first speak to a competition official who will arrange a meeting in the presence of said official.
- 4. Video and audio recording:** Videotaping and audio recording by competitors during the competition is prohibited. Videotaping and audio recording by a teacher, advisor, observer or other guest requires the direct permission of the competition coordinators.
- 5. Dress Code:** Students are assuming the role of a professional investigator and are expected to dress accordingly to maintain a professional appearance. Shorts, mini skirts, tank tops, and any dress deemed "provocative" or "sloppy" are prohibited.

II. Competition Schedule of Events:

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Schedule of events:

8:00-8:30 a.m. – team registration/sign-in **TEAMS MUST ARRIVE ON TIME**

8:30-9:00 a.m. – welcome

9:00-9:35 a.m. – team rotation #1

9:40-10:35 a.m.– team rotation # 2

10:40-11:35 a.m.– team rotation # 3

11:40 a.m.-1:40 p.m. – lunch and group time to prepare presentations

1:40- 2:25 p.m.– presentation session #1/group tour

2:35 – 3:20 p.m. – presentation session #2/group tour

3:20-3:50 p.m.– student assembly

4:00 p.m. announcement of winners/awards

4:30 p.m. students to buses

Fact Scenario: The fact scenario of the crime that teams will be investigating will be provided to the teams upon their arrival to the first rotation. Just as in real life they will be playing the roles of crime scene investigators that are called to a crime scene and have to gather information about that crime upon arrival. No information regarding the crime will be provided in advance of the competition. All students should come equipped with the necessary skills to gather and analyze the evidence from any type of crime scene that they may encounter.

Teams: Each team shall consist of no more, and no less than 9 students. Each team of nine students will be divided into 3 sub-groups of three students each, to be designated as sub-groups A, B and C. Teams should come with sub-groups A, B and C already designated. All three subgroups will rotate through all three stations throughout the morning. Therefore all students must be able to complete all possible tasks for their team. Students will not be designated with specific, separate roles. All students will work together as a team and share all work, tasks and findings.

Team Captain: Each team **MUST** designate a team captain. Although all team members contribute equally to the investigation, this is necessary due to the fact that your teacher/advisor cannot be with you during the competition. The designated team captain shall coordinate and lead teammates in an organized fashion throughout the competition. This will help teams compile and analyze their evidence and prepare their presentations in a smoother, more organized and efficient manner.

Teacher/Advisor Responsibilities: The teacher/advisor for each team is responsible for any and all communications with the CCLCE prior to the competition date. Most communications are done via email so the teacher/advisor is responsible for providing a valid email address upon registering the team and regularly checking and efficiently responding to email from the CCLCE regarding the competition. The teacher/advisor is also responsible for ensuring that **ALL** students are thoroughly familiar with the

Competition Guidelines; discussing the dress code and other rules with students and ensuring their compliance and adherence to these mandates; notifying competition coordinators in advance if there are any students with special needs; wearing a name tag identifying them as a team teacher/advisor; ensuring prompt arrival at the competition; ensuring all students have the skills and knowledge necessary to complete all the tasks properly and safely; and ensuring the proper behavior of all students on the team.

Equipment: Teams must bring a digital camera to record the crime scene, a laptop computer on which to prepare their power point presentation, and a thumb-drive or cd on which to save their work so that it can be presented to the judges on a host school computer/projector set-up. The host school will provide all other required technical equipment including all basic crime scene related supplies, laboratory equipment and reagents for the investigation and analysis of the evidence. Teams must also bring their own writing utensils, paper, notebooks, stapler, staples, clipboards, paper clips, etc.

Stations: There will be three stations that each sub-group of each team will rotate through and have tasks to complete therein. Therefore, all nine team members should be able to complete any and all investigation tasks. The stations include the crime scene, the interview room and the laboratory. Due to space constraints, two teams' sub-groups will view and analyze each crime scene at the same time.

Rotations: Each sub-group of each team will go to one station during each of three rotations. Therefore, all sub-groups will complete tasks in all stations at some point during the three rotations.

Rotation #1: 20 minutes at the designated station, followed by 15 minutes of review and analysis; sub-group A for each team will go to the crime scene where they will work alongside another sub-group from a different team and make initial observations and notes; sub-group B for each team will go to the interview rooms where they will interview the person who discovered the crime and called the police; sub-group C for each team will go to the laboratory to complete exercises.

Laboratory Session #1: Students will conduct microscopic hair and fiber comparisons. They will be given unknown hairs and fibers recovered from the crime scene and asked to compare them to known hairs and fibers. (In preparation for this exercise, students should receive instruction on use of a compound microscope, mounting hairs on glass slides, and basic microscopic structure of a hair.)

Rotation #2: 40 minutes at the designated station, followed by 15minutes of review and analysis; sub-group A will go to the interview rooms where they will interview suspect #1; sub-group B will go to the Laboratory to complete ex: 40 minutes at the designated station, followed by 15minutes of review and analysis; sub-group A will go to the interview rooms where they will interview suspect #1; sub-group B will go to the Laboratory to complete exercises; sub-group C will go to the crime scene where they will prepare a sketch map of the scene.

Laboratory Session #2: Students will be given several objects with latent prints and asked to develop those prints using a chemical method on paper (Ninhydrin) and powder dusting on a non-porous object. Students will then compare these developed prints with

known inked finger and palm print cards from the 2 suspects and the person who found the crime scene. (In preparation for the exercise, students should receive instruction regarding basic fingerprints patterns and methods of comparison, as well as how to process an object for fingerprints with powder dusting methods. We will demonstrate the proper method for chemical development of prints.)

Rotation #3: 40 minutes at the designated station, followed by 15 minutes of review and analysis; sub-group A will go to the laboratory to complete exercises; sub-group B will go to the crime scene where they will cast a footprint and process objects for fingerprints; sub-group C will go to the interview room where they will interview suspect #2.

Laboratory Session #3: Students will conduct presumptive blood tests on several potential bloodstains. (We will provide basic instruction on how to perform these tests.) Students will then measure a series of blood drops and determine their angle of incident, and thus their approximate area of origin. (In preparation for this exercise, students should be instructed on how to use basic trigonometric principles to solve for the angle of impact of a single drop of blood. We can provide basic materials for teachers to cover this material with students prior to the competition upon request.)

Lunch and group time: Teams will have two hours within which to eat a provided box lunch and prepare their presentation. Students should be sure to use their time wisely.

Presentation sessions and group tours: Three teams will present their findings to the judges in session 1 while the other three teams are given a guided tour of the school. Then the second group of three teams will present their findings to the judges in session 2 while the first group of three teams will be given their guided tour of the school. Each team will have a total of 15 minutes to present their findings to the judges. Team presentations will be stopped after 15 minutes regardless of whether or not the presentations are finished. Teams should therefore be cautious to stay within the time limit. Teams will not be in the room watching the other presentations.

Judges: The judges of the presentations will be experienced volunteers. Decisions of the judges are final.

Final presentation: Each team's final presentation to the judges must be in the form of a power point presentation and include the following: an overview of who they are, what they did and why they're there; information gathered from the interviews and where it led them; information gathered from the crime scene; laboratory information; the crime scene map; appropriate photographs of the crime scene and evidence; and a synopsis of their findings. All steps taken to reach the ultimate conclusion must be explained. Students must show the what, how, and why of everything they did in their investigation and how it all helped them reach their ultimate conclusion, and of course the conclusion itself. Presentations are strictly limited to 15 minutes and will be stopped at the end of the time limit regardless of whether they are finished.

Student Assembly: During this time, the judges will be discussing and evaluating the presentations to determine winners. Teams will be gathered together in the auditorium for a brief presentation to be announced on the date of the competition.

Judging Criteria:

Scoring will incorporate marks for specific group functions during the mornings as well as the final analysis presented by teams in the afternoon sessions.

Teams will be evaluated in the following manner:

- 1. Approach, evaluation, recognition and protection:** Students will be evaluated on how they safely approach their crime scene, evaluate the scene for any evidence and/or hazards, properly recognize physical evidence contained within the crime scene, evaluate the physical evidence within the scene, protect the crime scene and any physical evidence contained within the scene from contamination, and protect their own safety.
- 2. Recording the crime scene and physical evidence:** Students will be evaluated on how they record and accurately depict a crime scene by utilizing methods such as note taking, logs, photographing and map sketching. Crime scene photos must be taken with a digital camera for use in the final presentations.
- 3. Collection of physical evidence:** Students will be evaluated on the skills and methods they employ to properly collect and process any physical evidence located in the crime scene.
- 4. Preservation of physical evidence:** Students will be evaluated on the skills and methods they employ to preserve any physical evidence located in the crime scene and how they maintain and document the chain of custody for all physical evidence.
- 5. Analysis and evaluation of evidence, techniques and skills:**

Students must be proficient in the following scientific techniques:

- **Microscopy** (compound and stereoscopic microscopes)
- Examining and processing items for the presence of **trace evidence**
- Examining and processing items of evidence for **latent fingerprints** (chemical development and powder dusting)
- Analyzing **hair and fibers**
- Analyzing **questioned documents** (handwriting and indented writing)
- Casting **footwear, tire track, and/or tool mark impressions**
- Analyzing inks (**thin layer chromatography**)
- Analyzing **soil**
- **Ballistics**
- Analyzing **Gun Shot Residue (GSR)**
- **Blood typing** (with simulated blood, to be provided at the competition) (presumptive blood tests)
- **Trigonometric principles** to solve angle of impact of a drop of blood
- **Utilization of exemplars** (any necessary exemplar/comparative evidence will be provided)
- Maintaining an evidence log
- Documenting all physical evidence
- Maintaining a chain of custody for all evidence
- Adhering to safety guidelines within the laboratory
- Preventing contamination and/or loss of evidence
- Interrogation of witnesses and/or suspects

6. Interview and interrogation: There will be three people to interview and interrogate. Each sub-group of each team will interview/interrogate one of the three individuals. They are the person who discovered the crime and called the police plus two suspects.

7. Final presentation of investigation and analytical findings: Students must be prepared to identify which suspect(s) they believe committed the crime, and what evidence and motive supports this conclusion. All investigative work (i.e. theories, notes, diagrams, photographs, etc.) will be presented in this fifteen (15) minute power point presentation to a panel of judges in an organized and thorough manner.