

The Art of Forensic Detection: Think Like a Cop and Follow the Evidence

Presented by:
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Agenda

- ▶ Abduction: The Concept of Following the Evidence
- ▶ Introduction to the Group Project
- ▶ Group Project: Crime Scene Investigation
- ▶ Theories of the Crime and Wrap-up



Abduction: Follow the Evidence

- ▶ Daniel J. Levitin, *The Organized Mind*, (New York: Dutton, 2014).
 - Neuroplasticity
 - Change and Importance in the Mind
 - Your brain is actually working against you
- ▶ Jon J. Nordby, *Dead Reckoning: The Art of Forensic Detection*, (New York: CRC Press, 2000)
 - Inductive, Deductive and Abductive Thinking
 - Concept of Abductive Thinking
- ▶ Three cases
 - Caught by loose change
 - Problem with the obvious
 - Problem with the preconceived notion



Follow the Evidence

- ▶ Abductive reasoning looks at the evidence and thinks backwards
- ▶ Evidence rather than initial theory leads the investigation
- ▶ Educated guess might later be followed up by scientific evidence
- ▶ No detail is too small
- ▶ Look to the anomaly – to what is out of place
- ▶ Don't discard seemingly irrelevant evidence – it may not be in the end
- ▶ No preconceived notions
- ▶ Incriminating fact that is later supported by scientific evidence
- ▶ Never draw a conclusion until “the end of the day”



Follow the Evidence

What is the best explanation that ties all this evidence together?

NOT

How does all this evidence support a theory?



Crime Investigation, Wrap up and Questions



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