

CSI El Dorado - Case 42: The Death of Arthur Vanderbilt

It was often joked that Gloria Vanderbilt had expensive taste in both fashion and spouses. Late one night, after an argument with her husband Arthur, Gloria stormed out of their house and went down a few blocks to where a party was going on.

She left the party shortly before 1:00 a.m. and invited a few friends to come to her home and have one more drink. The friends arrived at the house about fifteen minutes after Gloria. She met them at the door and said, *"Something terrible happened. Arthur slipped and fell down the stairs. He was sleeping and came down for a drink—he still has the glass in his hand—and I think he's dead. Oh, my goodness—what shall I do?"* The police were called, and arrived ten minutes later. Paramedics arrived a few minutes after the police, but couldn't revive him.

🔍 An autopsy conducted later concluded that Arthur had died from blunt force trauma to the head. No unusual substances were detected in his blood.

🔍 Besides Gloria, no other witnesses were in the house at the time of Arthur's death and there was no sign of a break-in.

🔍 This cell phone picture was taken by one of the guests just as they arrived.



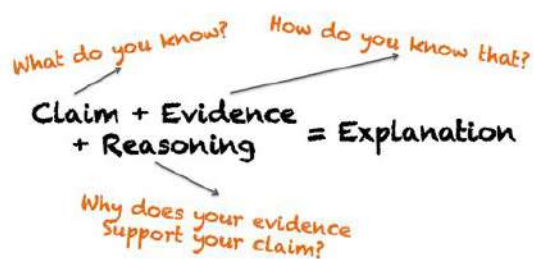
Was Arthur's death an accident?

Review all the evidence and witness statements to make your case. Then use the official CER-CSI form on the next page to answer the question. Your answer must be in the Claim, Evidence and Reasoning format discussed in class. Remember, you'll need to provide **evidence** that supports your claim, and provide **reasoning** (*explain*) why your evidence helps prove your claim.

CER- Crime Scene Investigation Form

Your Name:

Team (period):



The Question:

Was Arthur's death an accident or intentional?

Our Claim:

In my opinion, Arthur's death was

Our Evidence:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Our Justification (Reasoning) of the Evidence:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.