

Forensic Science Summer Assignment 2019-2020

Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to Forensic Science at Arts! I am Ms. Austin, and I am very excited to engage my students in forensics—the application of science for solving crimes. This is a course rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes.

I believe your experience in forensic science will be one to remember—the cases are fascinating, the labs engaging, and the content a satisfying application of all sciences studied up to this point. Plan to actively participate in class, complete all assignments thoughtfully and on time, and to study regularly outside of class.

Please feel free to contact me at any point by email (d1austin@nps.k12.nj.us).

Sincerely,

Ms. Austin

Science Teacher

Arts High School

Welcome to Forensic Science! It is my goal to help my students accomplish the following goals:

1. Develop and refine scientific reasoning skills
2. Reinforce and refine laboratory skills
3. Become proficient in documentation and analysis of scientific evidence from a crime scene
4. Develop an understanding of crime scene methodology
5. Provide opportunities to investigate many of the specialty fields in forensic science, including forensic anthropology, forensic entomology, forensic odontology, fingerprint analysis, impression evidence, blood spatter pattern analysis, glass fragment and pattern analysis, trace evidence analysis, and DNA profiling.

In order to accomplish all of the above, students must come into our course with a strong work ethic, an interest in the subject, a general appreciation of science and some basic science and math skills.

This summer assignment has two intended purposes:

1. To get you excited about all the different things you will be introduced to this year, and
2. To get us started on a strong note- we will be getting right down to business on the first day of school, and you need to be ready!

Here is your summer assignment. It is due the first day of class. Please also understand that plagiarism will result in a zero for this assignment. This summer assignment will count as an assessment grade.

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Part 1: Sign up for Remind 101

Remind 101 allows teachers to send texts or emails to groups of students while keeping the teacher's phone number hidden from the students and the students' numbers hidden from the teacher. I send out messages and reminders periodically. To join the Forensics group, text @9a9f3fk to 81010.

Part 2: Go to <https://www.aafs.org/home-page/students/choosing-a-career/types-of-forensic-scientists-disciplines-of-aafs/>

It is part of the website for the American Academy of Forensic Scientists. You will see a list of disciplines represented by this Academy. Choose one of the disciplines and click on it. Read the content. Then find at least 2 other sources with information about the same discipline. Write a one-page essay (roughly 3 paragraphs). The title of your essay should be "Forensic Science Summer Assignment: _____" (Fill in the blank with your topic.)

Your essay should be written around the following questions:

- a. Why did you initially choose this discipline? Did you change your mind? If so, why?
- b. As you researched the topic, what did you find interesting?
- c. Could you see yourself in this field? Why or why not?

Part 3: Read the Lead Case, *State v. Richard Crafts*, which is on the "Forensics" Remind App.

Then watch "Crime Stories - The Wood Chipper Wife Killer" to learn more about the case.

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2ljgmf>

After viewing the video, answer the following questions.

1. Based on the Crime Stories dramatization, what motive did Richard Crafts have to murder his wife, Helle? Explain your reasoning. (15 points)
2. In your opinion, whose testimony was the most significant in opening up the case? Explain your choice. (25 points)
3. Essay (60 points. Give several reasons why the murder case and conviction of Richard Crafts for the murder of Helle Crafts was so unusual and significant. In your answer describe the role of Forensic Science in changing this from a missing person case to a murder case. Give examples.

FYI - Here is a link to the two most recent article I could find about Richard Crafts and when he will be eligible for parole:

- https://www.wfsb.com/news/woodchipper-murder-case-from-years-ago-was-pivotal-for-forensic/article_2a473c33-283f-5893-89b2-ad37227da774.html
- <https://www.newstimes.com/local/article/23-years-ago-Richard-Crafts-was-more-willing-to-256633.php>