

# Class or Individual Evidence Stations Lab

**Directions:** There are 12 different stations around the room. At each station you must decide and EXPLAIN if the evidence is individual or class evidence.

**Station 1:** A torn T-shirt was found in the back seat of a suspect's car. Three pieces of torn cloth were found at the scene of the crime. Can the three pieces be individualized to the T-shirt? Explain. Would this be different if just a plain white T-shirt was found at the scene? Explain

**Station 2:** A broken test tube was found at a crime scene at a lab. Would small glass fragments be considered class evidence or individual evidence that can be uniquely associated with that? Explain.

**Station 3:** A note was found at a crime scene at a bank. A notepad with a similar type of paper was found in the desk of a suspect. Can the note be traced to the pad? Explain. Can the handwriting be associated to a person? Can fingerprints on the note be individualized to a person? Explain.

**Station 4:** A soda can was found at the scene of a crime. Investigators tried to determine whether any of several tabs found in a suspect's garage could be uniquely associated (individualized) with the can. How would this be possible? Explain.

**Station 5:** A shoe print was found at the scene of a hit and run automobile accident. How can a suspect's shoe be individualized to match a print? Explain.

**Station 6:** The Law & Order section of the Sparta Independent was found at the scene of a crime. The Business News section was found in the home of the suspect. Is the Business News section individual or class evidence? Explain.

**Station 7:** Some powder was found in a plastic bag in a suspect's pocket. Some similar powder was found on the victim. Can the first powder be individualized to the second powder? Explain. If the two

powders were determined to be chemically identical, does that prove they came from the same source? Explain.

**Station 8:** If a small piece of paper were cut into four pieces, would the pieces be class or individual evidence? Explain.

**Station 9:** If the same small piece of paper were torn into four pieces, would the pieces be class or individual evidence? Explain.

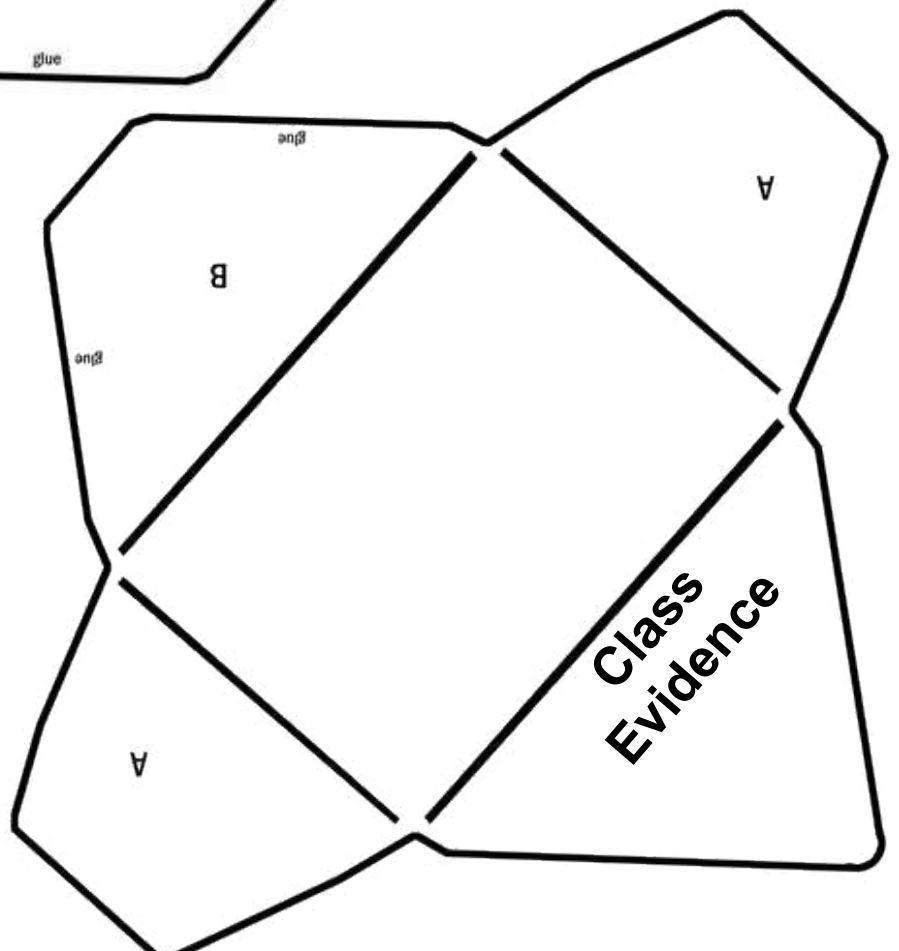
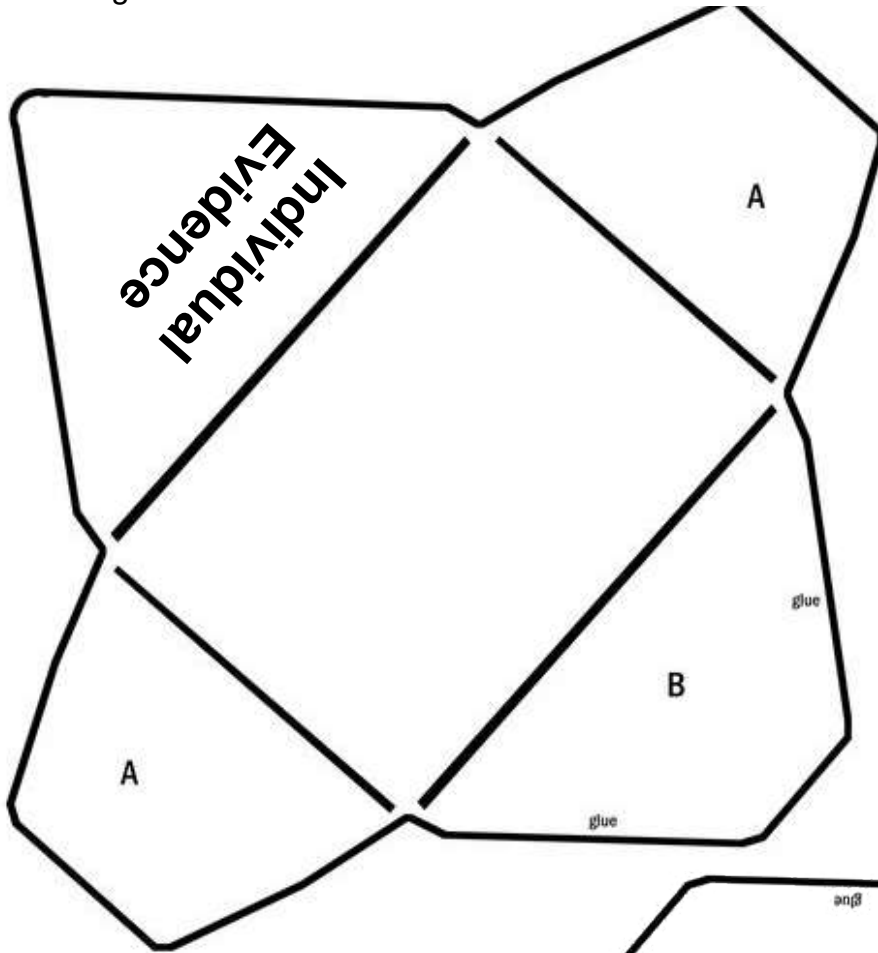
**Station 10:** A match was found at a suspicious house fire. A suspect was found carrying a book of matches, several of which were missing. Is the single match class or individual evidence? Explain.

**Station 11:** A piece of duct tape was taken from a victim of a B & E (breaking and entering). A roll of the same brand of duct tape was found at the suspect's home. Would this be considered class or individual evidence? Explain.

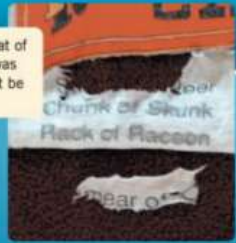
**Station 12:** A pair of latex gloves was found at the scene of a robbery. A box of the same brand of latex gloves was found at a suspect's home. Can the gloves be individualized to the box? Explain.

## Class or Individual Evidence?

Cut and fold the envelopes. Attach them to your composition notebook. Define individual and class evidence on the inside flap of the envelope. With a partner classify each piece of evidence. Write the reasoning on the back of the card. Sort the cards into the correct envelope.



1. A torn T-shirt was found in the backseat of a suspect's car. A piece of torn cloth was found at the scene of the crime. Can it be individualized to the T-shirt? Explain.



3. Pieces of a broken bottle were found at the scene of an assault. The bottom of a bottle was found in a suspect's car. Can the pieces of the bottle be uniquely associated (individualized) with what was found in the suspect's car? Explain.



5. A bloody knife has been found in the backyard of a murder suspect. Under what circumstances could it be individualized? Or will it remain class evidence?



7. Can it be determined whether these bullets were fired from the same gun? How can bullets be individualized to a gun? Explain.



9. A pair of latex gloves was found at the scene of a robbery. A box of the same brand of latex gloves was found at a suspect's home. Can the gloves be individualized to the box? Explain.



11. A match was found at the scene of a suspicious house fire. A suspect was found carrying a book of matches, several of which were missing. Is the single match class or individual evidence? Explain.



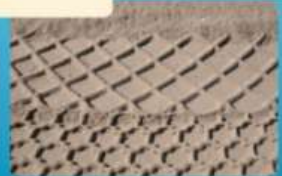
2. A pistol was found in a theatre where a man was shot. A suspect known to have owned a Derringer like this one was apprehended. Would this gun be considered individual or class evidence?



4. Some blond hairs were found on the gloves of a suspected kidnapper who has brown hair. Would they be considered individual or class evidence?



6. Are tire impressions such as these individual or class evidence? Explain.



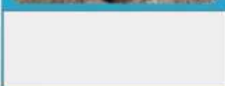
8. Some powder was found in a plastic bag in a suspect's pocket. Some similar powder was found on the victim. Can the first powder be individualized to the second powder? Explain. If the two powders were determined to be chemically identical, does that prove they came from the same source?



10. A cigarette butt was found at the scene of a crime. Is it individual evidence? Explain.



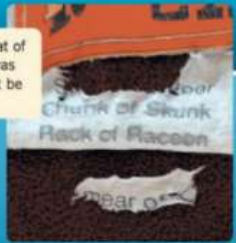
12. A suspect in a B & E (breaking and entering) had shoes that were caked with soil. Is the soil class evidence, or could it be considered individual evidence? Explain.





1. A torn T-shirt was found in the backseat of a suspect's car. A piece of torn cloth was found at the scene of the crime. Can it be individualized to the T-shirt? Explain.

Class UNLESS the tear marks can be matched exactly



Individual IF the pieces can be matched exactly

3. Pieces of a broken bottle were found at the scene of an assault. The bottom of a bottle was found in a suspect's car. Can the pieces of the bottle be uniquely associated (individualized) with what was found in the suspect's car? Explain.



5. A bloody knife has been found in the backyard of a murder suspect. Under what circumstances could it be individualized? Or will it remain class evidence?

Individual IF the DNA or fingerprints can be matched to a suspect



7. Can it be determined whether these bullets were fired from the same gun? How can bullets be individualized to a gun? Explain.

Yes they can; Individual due to striations



9. A pair of latex gloves was found at the scene of a robbery. A box of the same brand of latex gloves was found at a suspect's home. Can the gloves be individualized to the box? Explain.

Class



Class UNLESS the tear marks can be matched exactly

11. A match was found at the scene of a suspicious house fire. A suspect was found carrying a book of matches, several of which were missing. Is the single match class or individual evidence? Explain.



2. A pistol was found in a theatre where a man was shot. A suspect known to have owned a Derringer like this one was apprehended. Would this gun be considered individual or class evidence?

Class UNLESS the serial number can be matched to a suspect



4. Some blond hairs were found on the gloves of a suspected kidnapper who has brown hair. Would they be considered class or individual evidence?

Class



6. Are tire impressions such as these individual or class evidence? Explain.

Class UNLESS there's an imperfection in the tire



8. Some powder was found in a plastic bag in a suspect's pocket. Some similar powder was found on the victim. Can the first powder be individualized to the second powder? Explain. If the two powders were determined to be chemically identical, does that prove they came from the same source?

Class and No



10. A cigarette butt was found at the scene of a crime. Is it individual evidence? Explain.



Class UNLESS you can get DNA

12. A suspect in a B & E (breaking and entering) had shoes that were caked with soil. Is the soil class evidence, or could it be considered individual evidence? Explain.



Individual IF you can match the soil

