

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Tips for Writing a Synopsis

A synopsis is a condensed statement or outline that includes all of the main points of the case or argument. For the purposes of this unit, the synopsis should clearly and concisely describe the facts of the case, and how the pieces of evidence help to logically conclude who the murderer is. Think back to the discussion you had in class earlier today. Use that information to help inform your writing. Below are some tips to help you get started writing your case synopsis:

- Determine which facts and pieces of evidence you want to include in the synopsis. Typically, these are the strongest pieces that help support your conclusion.
- Include why your evidence is credible. You may want to mention that the forensic tests you performed were scientific.
- Think about the order in which you present your evidence. You want to either start strong or end strong. Do not hide the most important piece of evidence in the middle.
- Create momentum and suspense through the presentation of your evidence. This will emotionally appeal to your audience, and will help make your argument stronger.
- Clearly present facts and logical reasoning to support your conclusion.
- Make it clear who you think the murderer is.
- Create an outline of all of the pieces of evidence from the case that you are going to include.
- Use your outline to write out your conclusion to the case in your own words first. Edit it to create more concise statements. Keep editing it until you have reached maximum impact in the least amount of words possible.

Additional things to keep in mind:

- Use the synopsis as a guideline for what you are going to include in your presentation.
- Mimic the structure of your synopsis in your presentation. By keeping the same order of items, the audience will more easily remember what you have said.
- Practice reading your synopsis out loud. Try to remember pieces of it (if not all) during your presentation.
- Practice your presentation, including the synopsis. Make sure that the synopsis fits well with the rest of your presentation.