**Forensics Case Study: The O.J. Simpson Case**



**Objective:** You will use your knowledge of CSI to complete the project on the O. J. Simpson case.

**Procedure:** Complete the following questions using the O.J.

Simpson Trace Evidence assignment and the video: [Trial of the Century – “New Detectives”.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrcd1eRBc3U&t=36s&ab_channel=TheNewDetectives) (Please excuse some of the hateful language in the video – some footage is directly from the trial and is unedited. Thank you.)

1. Describe the crime scene of the double murder in the upscale suburb of Brentwood, Los Angeles, California.

1. Who were the victims? Describe them. How were they related to O.J. Simpson?

1. How much incriminating evidence was found concerning O.J. Simpson? Where was it found? State the various locations.

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| Evidence  | Where it was found  |
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1. Read the information below about types of evidence.
* **Direct:** firsthand observations (eyewitness account, video camera, confessions) shows that something is a fact without inference or presumption
* **Circumstantial:** indirect evidence; implies a fact, but does not directly prove it requires making an inference
* **Trace Evidence:** Small but measurable amounts of physical or biological material found at a crime scene
* Physical – bullets, weapons, impressions
* Biological – body fluids, plant parts, hair
* Examples of Trace Evidence:
	+ Hair
	+ Fibers
	+ Soil
	+ Fingerprints
	+ Body fluids (semen, blood, saliva, mucus)
	+ Paint chips
	+ Broken glass
	+ Chemical residue
	+ Categories of Evidence
* **Class Evidence:** Narrows identity to a group of persons or things. Example: blood type
* **Individual Evidence:** Narrow identity to a single person or thing. Example: fingerprint

Now describe 6 important pieces of evidence found using the following information: Direct evidence is an eyewitness Include in your description whether it was direct (D) or circumstantial (C), physical (P)or biological (B), class (C) or individual (I).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Piece of evidence  | Direct or Circumstantial?  | Physical or Biological?  | Class or Individual?  |
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1. What went wrong with the case against O. J. Simpson? Why is it important to follow crime scene protocol? What mistakes did the CSI at the scene make?

1. What was specifically brought into question by the defense? How did they use “proper police protocol” at a crime scene against the L.A.P.D?

1. How did the defense use the mistakes to “poke holes” in the prosecution’s case? Give 3 examples of this.

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| --- | --- |
| Example 1  |   |
| Example 2  |   |
| Example 3  |   |

1. Why were the “combined points” raised by the defense so powerful in the case?

1. What was the verdict in the case of “The People vs. Orenthal James Simpson”?

1. What is the difference between a civil case and a criminal case?

1. What was the verdict in the civil case against O. J.?

1. List the 7 steps of Processing a Crime Scene and give a brief description of each one. These steps are in your unit 2 notes posted on canvas [unit 2 notes](https://wfsd.instructure.com/courses/11471/files/842467?module_item_id=152518), but you may also watch the video: [“Processing A Crime Scene”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ur1GxXZGnNI&t=58s&ab_channel=INLabOps)  to help you with your answers.
2. What types of evidence needs to be preserved? Give three examples and explain how to preserve it.

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| --- | --- |
| Example  | How to preserve it  |
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1. When detaining a **suspect** at the scene of a crime, what must police do with them? Why?

1. When detaining **witnesses** at the scene of a crime, how should they be handled by the crime scene investigators? Why is this important?

1. Why is it important to limit the personnel that enter the crime scene and seal off the crime scene? What is the importance of documenting those who enter and leave? Where should they enter and leave from? Why?

1. Why is it important for the CSI to wear protective gear? Explain what this protective gear might be.