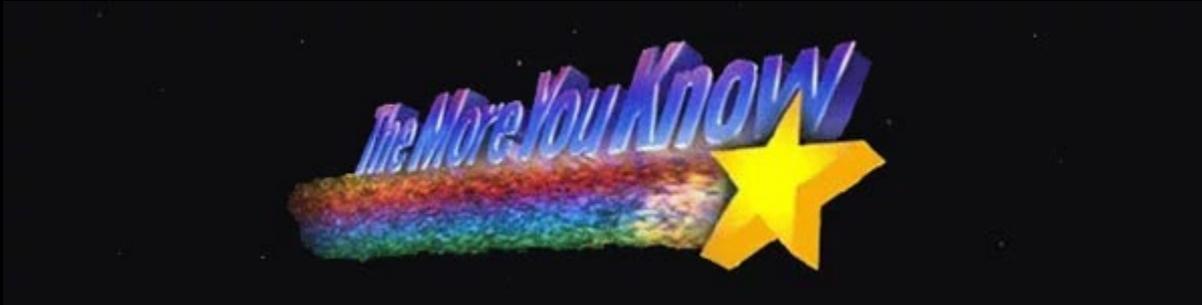


Witness Interviewing

Katie Rozmarynowski

Interview Preparation

- Knowledge is power
 - Background information
 - Facebook Information
 - Visit the scene
 - Previous Statements



Planning for the Interview

- When?

- Where?

Type of interview

- Phone
 - Scheduled In person
 - Cold visit
- Dress code

What to Bring

- Notepad and pen
- Photos related to witness
- Police reports related to witness
- Diagrams



Arriving at the Interview

- Time of day
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Identification
- Presence of Others



Getting in the door

- You must sell yourself first before you can sell reasonable doubt

Types of witnesses

- Friendly witness
- Reluctant witness
- Hostile witness
- Disinterested witness

Already told the cops what I know

Have one question in mind

WE ARE NOT COPS!



(or prosecutors)

During the Interview

- 99% of the time, you are everyone's friend.

Be respectful

- Never get angry

Promises

Photos

Personal Information

The cardinal rule is "If you are uncomfortable, leave."

During the Interview

- Don't talk about the case
 - Stay relaxed
 - Remember all information is good information
 - Get out of the way
 - Power of the pause
 - Burn no bridges
 - The goal should never prevent us from getting more than we expect

Types of Questions

- Open-ended
- Closed
- Leading
- Forced-choice
- Multiple



Open- ended Questions

- Best kind of questions from the point of view of evidence and information-gathering

Open-ended questions elicit responses similar to those obtained by free recall which has been found to be the most accurate form of remembering





Where?

WHEN?



why?
why?
why?
why?
why?



HOW?

Closed Questions

- Allows only a relatively narrow range of responses, and the response usually consist of one word or a short phrase
Closed questions are the second best type of questions

Forced - choice question

- This type of question leaves interviewees only a small number of alternatives from which they must choose.
“Do you prefer tea, coffee or hot-chocolate?”

Multiple questions

- A multiple question is an utterance that asks about several things at once
The main problem with this utterance is that people do not know which part of it to answer

Leading questions

- The distinction between a leading and misleading questions.
 - So, you told your mom that you were scared of him?

Closing the Interview

- Witness concerns
 - The last word is theirs
 - It has not ended
 - Thank you

Challenges

- Age

- Is it important?
- What are the rules?

Language barriers and impairments

Quiet

Lacks focus

Mental health issues

Cognitive disabilities



Yute

Bae

WodWoo

Muff

Turnt

Lit

Youth

Before Anyone Else

Blah blah blah

Hit

Inebriated/havifign

Slang/Acronyms



Finna

Gucci

Yeet

Thot

Minute

Goingo

Good

ThrowAway

Thathooverthere

Awhile

Questions?

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