

CSI NIGHT

Background:

Statistics show that parental involvement in education decreases as children age. One way that we work to bring parents back into the classroom with their child is through our annual CSI Night. (We use the acronym to stand for Colt Science Investigator.) At the CSI Night event, parents and students work as a forensic team to conduct experiments using various scientific techniques and equipment, then analyze the data collected to solve a crime. Not only do parents get involved, students exhibit an increased interest in science! The event can be scheduled along with a meal if you have sufficient manpower and resources.

Participants gather in a large room or auditorium to receive basic information regarding the crime. A film/video can be used to introduce the suspects and set the scenario for the evening. (TV Productions classes have assisted tremendously.) Following the video, participants are dismissed by groups to move to the laboratories to begin their forensic testing of the evidence. The “scientists” will rotate from lab to lab at predetermined intervals and then reconvene in the auditorium to review the evidence and apprehend the prime suspect.

Guide to Planning your event:

1. **Set a date:** Give yourself at least four months of planning/preparation time.
2. **Secure the facility** early: You will need an auditorium of large meeting room plus several classrooms for testing. Plan on conducting four or five tests. If you anticipate 100 people, you could put 20 people in each of five rooms. For 200 participants, I would recommend doubling the stations. (You will have duplicate testing sites for each experiment.)
3. **Decide upon the crime or theme** for the evening. One year we used the disappearance of our principal’s Gator helmet and this year we based the evening on the board game “Clue.”
4. **Recruit suspects and victim(s).** Try to get a variety of individuals who are outgoing, can be dramatic, and are known by the target audience. Select from teachers, administration, and the student body. The more into the character your suspects are, the better the reaction from the participants.
5. **Enlist help from TV Productions & Criminal Justice:** The TV Productions students have been fantastic to us. They film our suspects and directions for the evening, then edit the footage to present us with a professional video. The Criminal justice students gather the evidence from the crime scene and then have a trial for the defendant.

- 6. Determine the tests to be conducted.** You need to plan ahead what types of tests you will have the participants perform on the evidence. You must have this information before setting the crime scene in order to be able to collect the appropriate evidence from the scene. Plan for each test to be completed in 10-15 minutes.

Suggestions:

Mysterious powder (use corn starch)
Ransom note
Fingerprints
Footprints
“Blood”
Soil
Hair
Cloth fibers

- 7. Create tables to record the evidence.**

- 8. Prepare a script** as a guide for the suspects and victim(s) to follow for filming. Encourage the suspects to dress and act in character. It is also ok to ad lib and interject their own personal take on the character.

- 9. Advertise:** Send **flyers** home with the target group. (We have targeted 9th graders.) We have a sign up portion at the bottom of the flyer for students to return. This helps us gauge the number of people to expect.
Create posters to hang up at school. **Morning announcements** provide an opportunity to advertise. We also try to have our video played for the students to watch during announcement time. If your announcement period is too short, clips could be played on a few different days.

- 10. Volunteers:** It is critical to have enough volunteers. We use upper class science students to serve at the registration table, as group leaders, laboratory “experts”, and for set up. The volunteers must be trained ahead of time to make everything run smoothly. The “experts” teach the participants the tests that will be conducted in their particular laboratory.

Room hosts: An adult volunteer in each room to support the student expert is extremely beneficial. These adults should also be trained to conduct the experiment for which they are hosting.

Meal/refreshments: If you are serving any type of refreshments or a meal, arrange to have volunteers handle this for you. The coordinators need to free to check on the progress of the event and keep things running smoothly. Coordinators should not be in charge of a testing site or food. (Trust me, you will have enough to do.)

- 11. Develop schedule/ agenda and stick to it!**

12. Make copies in advance: Prepare all of your information and tables well in advance to avoid last minute issues. Print extras!!!

13. Secure AV equipment: Be sure that you have the equipment needed and that you are comfortable with running the equipment. It is advisable to have a PA system available.

14. Involve your administration!!

Good Luck and Have Fun!!

Welcome to

C.S.I Night

at

North Marion High School

Please be sure to sign in and receive a name tag with a group color code. This will be important as you rotate from one **station to the** next. Please be sure to stay with your group and move together between stations. CSI associates will be in the hallways to assist with directions and a science expert will be available at each station to provide instructions and assistance.

****After completing the final rotation, please return to the cafeteria for additional activities.**

Agenda

6:15-6:45	Registration and refreshments
6:45-7:00	Introduction to activity & directions
7:00-8:20	Experimentation
8:30-8:45	Arrest suspect
8:45-9:00	Wrap up and Biotechnology presentation

CSI Get A Clue
January 24, 2008

Ms. Quelland:

Please give a general welcome to the crowd.....

Follow with something like:

Our forensics experts from North Marion High were invited to collect and process the evidence from Northberry High School, home of the fighting muffins. Tonight each of you is invited to “Get a Clue” as you help us sort through the evidence. By the end of the evening, our forensic scientists will be able to let the evidence speak to identify the probable murderer. Please pay attention to the following taped interviews for more information about the victim, the crime, and the suspects.

AFTER THE VIDEO:

At this time we are going to move into the Colt Science Investigations laboratories. We ask that you remain with your assigned lab partners throughout testing. When all laboratory tests have been completed, we ask that you return here to learn the true identity of Captain Computer’s killer and his/her arrest. We will also be drawing for door prizes. Everyone in group 1, please follow the CSI associate in the back waiting for you. (Continue to dismiss by group.....)

North Marion High School

Presents:



"GET A CLUE!"

Colt Science Investigators' Night

January 24, 2008

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Take part in an exciting evening of fun and learning as students and parents work together to solve a crime using scientific principles and practices.

Participants will use some of the same techniques used by law enforcement laboratories worldwide. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn with your child while solving a:

***Who Did It Mystery, based on the board game
"CLUE"***

Snacks will be available.

Please complete and return the form below to ensure we have an adequate supply of materials available for conducting your experiments.

Check with your science teacher to see if extra credit will be awarded.

Student Name:

Science teacher :

Number of people attending: _____

Table for recording **Blood** evidence (observations)

Suspect	Anti A serum	Anti B serum
Mrs. Foster		
Mrs. Jones		
Mr. Provost		
Mrs. Sales		
Mrs. Spencer		
Mr. Watts		

Hair & Fiber:

Suspect	Crime scene Hair	Crime scene fiber
Mrs. Foster		
Mrs. Jones		
Mr. Provost		
Mrs. Sales		
Mrs. Spencer		
Mr. Watts		

Fingerprints: Record the type of print pattern for each suspect and the number of points of match for each suspect to those found at the crime scene.

Suspect	Pattern type	Match
Mrs. Foster		
Mrs. Jones		
Mr. Provost		
Mrs. Sales		
Mrs. Spencer		
Mr. Watts		

Summary: Place an X in the space next to the suspects that matched evidence listed in the table below. Indicate where the fingerprints were located. For the pen used for ransom note indicate the person whose fingerprints were found on the pen at the scene that matched the ink type used on the ransom note.

						Pen used
<u>Suspect</u>	<u>Fiber</u>	<u>Hair</u>	<u>Footprint</u>	<u>Fingerprint</u>	<u>Blood</u>	<u>writing</u>
<u>Mrs. Foster</u>						
<u>Mrs. Jones</u>						
<u>Mr. Provost</u>						
<u>Mrs. Sales</u>						
<u>Mrs. Spencer</u>						
<u>Mr. Watts</u>						

Based upon the test results and analysis of evidence, it appears that _____ removed the helmet from Ms. Quelland's office and attempted to collect ransom money.

If your science teacher is offering extra credit for participating in CSI NIGHT, take this paper to class tomorrow as proof of your participation.

Thank you for your participation in our 1st annual Colt Science Investigation!