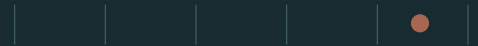


# THE INVESTIGATOR'S FIELDBOOK

A reusable notebook for readers who follow the evidence.



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES FILES

### INVESTIGATION WORKSHEETS

Eight printable pages to track clues, compare accounts, and test theories while reading a mystery or thriller.

CASE / BOOK

---

READER / INVESTIGATOR

---

DATE OPENED

---

OBSERVE / DOCUMENT / TEST / REASSESS

Free printable companion | No series spoilers | Personal use

## OPEN THE CASE

# CASE INTAKE

Capture the question before the evidence changes your mind.

---

**CASE / BOOK TITLE****LOCATION OR SETTING**

---

**CASE OPENED ON****TYPE OF INCIDENT****WHAT HAPPENED?**

Record the initial event in plain language.

**WHO IS AFFECTED?**

Identify the people, places, or systems at stake.

**WHAT IS THE INITIAL EXPLANATION?**

Who supplied it? Distinguish an allegation from a finding.

**WHAT IS MY FIRST INVESTIGATIVE QUESTION?**

Choose one question that can be tested.

Starting point, not verdict: you may revise every entry as new evidence appears.

COLLECT

# EVIDENCE REGISTER

Record what an exhibit actually shows - not what you hope it means.

| #  | ITEM / SOURCE | OBSERVED FACT | TIME / DATE | CHECKED? |
|----|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| 01 |               |               |             |          |
| 02 |               |               |             |          |
| 03 |               |               |             |          |
| 04 |               |               |             |          |
| 05 |               |               |             |          |
| 06 |               |               |             |          |

MISSING RECORDS / NEXT DOCUMENTS TO REQUEST

Observation first. Interpretation belongs in the hypothesis section.

RECONSTRUCT

# EVENT TIMELINE

Sort observations by time and separate known dates from estimates.

| WHEN | EVENT OR OBSERVATION + SOURCE | STATUS |
|------|-------------------------------|--------|
|      |                               |        |
|      |                               |        |
|      |                               |        |
|      |                               |        |
|      |                               |        |
|      |                               |        |
|      |                               |        |
|      |                               |        |

EARLIEST VERIFIED EVENT

MOST IMPORTANT TIMING CONFLICT

Use E = exact / A = approximate / ? = unconfirmed.

## CHALLENGE

# CLAIMS VS. EVIDENCE

Test the explanation against both supporting and conflicting records.

## 01 CLAIM OR EXPLANATION

WHAT SUPPORTS IT?

WHAT CONTRADICTS IT?

WHAT WOULD I CHECK NEXT?

## 02 CLAIM OR EXPLANATION

WHAT SUPPORTS IT?

WHAT CONTRADICTS IT?

WHAT WOULD I CHECK NEXT?

## 03 CLAIM OR EXPLANATION

WHAT SUPPORTS IT?

WHAT CONTRADICTS IT?

WHAT WOULD I CHECK NEXT?

Several facts can fit the same story. Actively look for a rival explanation.

## VERIFY

# SOURCE AUDIT

An impressive document is not automatically a reliable one.

**SOURCE 01**

WHO CREATED IT / THEIR ROLE

---

WHEN + ORIGINAL OR RETOLD?

---

INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION

---

WHAT MIGHT BE MISSING OR BIASED?

---

**SOURCE 02**

WHO CREATED IT / THEIR ROLE

---

WHEN + ORIGINAL OR RETOLD?

---

INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION

---

WHAT MIGHT BE MISSING OR BIASED?

---

**SOURCE 03**

WHO CREATED IT / THEIR ROLE

---

WHEN + ORIGINAL OR RETOLD?

---

INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION

---

WHAT MIGHT BE MISSING OR BIASED?

---

**RECORD OR SOURCE I STILL NEED TO FIND**

---

A credible source can still be mistaken. A suspicious source can still be right.

## TEST

# HYPOTHESIS MATRIX

A good theory survives attempts to disprove it.

## 01 HYPOTHESIS

EVIDENCE IN FAVOR

EVIDENCE AGAINST / GAPS

WHAT RESULT WOULD WEAKEN OR RULE IT OUT?

## 02 HYPOTHESIS

EVIDENCE IN FAVOR

EVIDENCE AGAINST / GAPS

WHAT RESULT WOULD WEAKEN OR RULE IT OUT?

## 03 HYPOTHESIS

EVIDENCE IN FAVOR

EVIDENCE AGAINST / GAPS

WHAT RESULT WOULD WEAKEN OR RULE IT OUT?

CURRENT LEADING THEORY (PROVISIONAL)

If no test could change your mind, you may be defending a conclusion instead of investigating.

[CLOSE](#)

# CASE ASSESSMENT

State the strongest conclusion the evidence can support.

## MY BEST-SUPPORTED CONCLUSION

---

---

---

## THREE STRONGEST EVIDENCE ANCHORS

01 

---

02 

---

03 

---

## WHAT REMAINS UNPROVEN?

---

---

## WHAT EVIDENCE COULD CHANGE THIS FINDING?

---

---

## CASE STATUS

☐ OPEN☐ PROVISIONALLY RESOLVED☐ CLOSED FOR NOW

Evidence can support a conclusion without proving every motive, identity, or offense.