

## Instructions for Crime Scene Program

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1. Set up crime scene at least an hour (preferably hours/day before) before the scheduled event.
2. Have snacks and drinks available throughout. If the previous branch realizes that we're out of either, they should notify Alicia so that she can ensure that each branch continues to have drinks/snacks available.
3. Set aside an area or room for the crime scene and a separate area or room for where patrons will be waiting to enter the crime scene and then process the evidence they've been given.
4. Have the surveys and QR code available in the "investigation/waiting room".
5. There should be 1 staff member in the crime scene area at all times to monitor patrons. Patrons can interact with the crime scene, such as picking up the books, going through the book bag, etc., but they must put it back where it was. They are not allowed to remove anything from the crime scene room. Patrons may have questions, but only answer ones that identify the names of the rooms, such as "this is the library reference desk", "this is the room where the author signing was to be held", etc.
  - a. **DO NOT CONFIRM ANY INFORMATION THE PATRONS ASK.** Only state which areas of the crime scene are the Event Room, the Main Lobby Area, the Reference Desk, and Maureen's Body. If the patrons ask you questions, act as if you don't know! Do not allow them to manipulate you into giving them answers that they need to figure out on their own. That is how critical thinking and problem-solving skills are developed!
  - b. Also, **DO NOT POINT OUT ANY OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN THE ROOM SUCH AS THE PURSE, THE ENVELOPE WITH THE "POISON" ...IT IS OK IF NOT ALL OF THE PATRONS FIND THESE ITEMS!**
6. There should also be 1 staff member in the "investigation/waiting room" area to also monitor patrons and make sure they're following instructions, etc. **AGAIN, DO NOT ALLOW PATRONS TO MANIPULATE YOU INTO**

PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION! If they ask a question, act like you do Not know!

7. As people enter the room at the beginning of the program, hand out the newspaper articles, Facebook posts, and the police report to all patrons. Those who have to wait to enter the crime scene will have something to read over while they wait. Hand out the small notebooks (and pens/pencils) for them to take notes.
8. At the start of the program, explain how the program is set up, in which small groups will be entering the crime scene one at a time and then will return to the “investigation/waiting room” to work on solving the crime.
9. Each group should have about 10 minutes walking the crime scene to allow for all attendees to view the crime scene.
10. Allow about 5 people in each group, though this may change depending on the size of the crime scene area and the amount of attendees present.
11. As patrons exit the crime scene, give them the packet that contains the rest of the documents which would include the witness statements, toxicology report, and autopsy report.
  - a. Reset the room after each group leaves! But the items back where they were for the next group!
12. Once the attendees have viewed the crime scene, they will be able to begin working on determining if the accused actually committed the crime and how/why. Attendees will be allowed to re-enter the crime scene for a second, or even third walk through.
13. About 30 minutes before the end of the program, ask attendees what they think happened. Ask them “who, what, where, how, and why”? Use a whiteboard or some other way of keeping up with the suggestions. Then once they have been submitted, go through the list and ask them to vote on which scenario is most likely by raising their hands.
  - a. Can have 1 person doing the speech at the end of the program, including doing The Big Reveal, while another person writes on the whiteboard the responses as to what the patrons thought happened
14. Once that is complete, reveal what actually happened and see who got the answer correct. If necessary and time permitting, outline the evidence that suggests who really did it.

15. Read the script about disinformation after “The Big Reveal”. Also mention the surveys and the corresponding QR code for feedback.
16. At the end of the program, collect the notebooks so that they can be used for other programs. Patrons will need to remove the pages they wrote on.
17. If you are going to take photos that include faces of children, you need have them sign photo consent forms.

## Program Script

Welcome everyone! Before we get started, we just wanted to explain the setup of the program.

For this case, we are asking you to take on the role of a private investigator. Gloria Hammond has been accused of committing a crime and quickly retained an attorney. Her attorney hired you, as the private investigator, to determine how likely is it that Mrs. Hammond actually committed the crime she's accused of and if there is any evidence that was overlooked.

The purpose of doing so is to determine how her attorney should proceed with this case- either encourage his client to make a plea bargain if the evidence is overwhelmingly not in her favor or go forward with a trial to prove

their client's innocence. In other words, is the evidence in this case enough to lead to a conviction?

Is there any reasonable doubt that Gloria committed this crime? Are there any extenuating circumstances that could allow the attorney to plead insanity or lesser culpability (in other words, did she have accomplices)? Keep this information in mind as you examine the crime scene and other evidence that will be presented to you.

We will divide you up in small groups. Each group will have 10 minutes to view the mock crime scene. You can touch items, however, you must put the item back where it had been. You cannot take items out of the crime scene area.

For those groups that are waiting to view the crime scene, we have passed out a few documents for you to read over to give you some background on the case. We have also provided small notebooks for you to make notes of the evidence and any theories you may have. These notebooks will need to be returned after the program. You can tear out any pages you write on and keep.

Once you exit the crime scene, we will provide you the rest of the documents that will contain more background information and will help you with the case. Once everyone has been able to view the crime scene, you will be permitted to return to the crime scene for further evidence gathering, although the rules about behavior in the crime scene remain the same.

Roughly 30 minutes prior to the end of the program, we will ask you what you think happened and we'll record the major theories. We will also discuss whether Mrs. Hammond's attorney should encourage a plea bargain, move forward with a trial, or take some other action based on the state of their client. We will then take a vote to determine what the most popular theory is. Afterwards, we will reveal what really happened.





## **At End of program & the Big Reveal**

You may have noticed the title of this program is “Crime Scene Investigation: Deadly Disinformation”. This is because, as the Big Reveal points out, there were several misleading or false clues. There was also some evidence that had been overlooked that influenced how police focused their investigation. In other words, this case demonstrates that there was a lot of mis and disinformation throughout this case.

Misinformation is information that is not accurate but may just be a result of a mistake, such as misremembering some detail.

Disinformation is information that is not accurate by design and is often made with dishonest purposes and uses in mind. Basically, an outright lie.

So, what information do you think was disinformation or intentionally false or misleading?

What information was misinformation in this case or simply an “honest mistake” or misremembering events?

If we had not revealed what really happened, what do you think would have happened to Mrs. Hammond, our accused?

Misinformation and disinformation are not just absurd conspiracy theories that are challenging to believe but can be harmful information with far-reaching negative consequences for us all, including for Gloria Hammond who was wrongfully accused of murder.

All of the evidence you have read or seen today is basically, in its simplest form, information. We consume a ton of information on a daily basis. So, with that, be aware of the source and intent of the information that you consume.

Thank you for attending our program! Please complete the survey and provide feedback on what you think about the program! There are both printed copies and a QR Code. Remember to return the notebooks. Tear out the pages you wrote on if you want to keep those. You can either return the folder with the documents or keep it. We look forward to hosting more crime scene programs and seeing you all again!