

Hello, Scientists!

I know that most of you are excited for your summer break, but I CAN'T WAIT for September! I have a strong suspicion that the 2023/24 forensic course will be #1 on your list of favorite science classes.

Forensic Science is the study and application of science to matters of law. In other words, you'll learn about using science and scientific methods to investigate crimes and examine evidence that may be presented to a court of law,

Forensic Science is more than "just science". It combines everything you learn in school in ALL your subjects. Here's a sampling of evidence:

- Math - graphing, statistics, ratios, measuring, word problems...
- ELA - research skills, oral and written communication, technical reading skills...
- Social Studies - criminal justice, constitutional rights, forensic history, law...
- Technology - microscopy, computers, photography, chromatography...
- Process Skills - interviewing, problem solving, organizational skills...
- Earth Science - casts and molds, mineralogy, soil studies...
- Chemistry - density, fire and explosives, mixtures and separations, toxicology, ...
- Physics - light, sound and voice patterns, trajectories...
- Life Sciences - serology (blood, DNA), anatomy (fingerprints, bone, hair, teeth)...
- More! - cosmetics, handwriting, forgery...

I wasn't kidding! You'll use all the knowledge you've learned in school and in daily life to investigate and solve crimes, then use your results to present your case to a judge and jury.

It takes a team to investigate crimes. Each CSI (Crime Scene Investigator) specializes in an area of forensic science. Their workplace can be at the scene of a crime, in a crime lab, or in their specialty lab.

The flip side of this page lists some of the jobs forensic scientists can perform.

1. Read the list, then put your writing skills to work.
2. Choose at least one area (in **bold print**) or one specific job (in *italics*) that interests you and explain why.
3. Include information about what that particular job entails. Write about what you think the duties of the job are or research the job using your references of choice.
4. Test your courtroom skills of persuasion to convince me that your interest in your chosen field would make you a good candidate for the job.
5. Write your essay on paper or send it to my email: [ssanders@derechhatorah.org](mailto:ssanders@derechhatorah.org)
6. This assignment is due on September 8. Successful completion of this assignment exempts you from the first quiz! (**Feel free to complete and submit this assignment before the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted.**)

**Federal Crime Lab**

- FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)*
- Department of Homeland Security*
- Department of the Treasury*

**Specialty Services**

- Forensic Pathologist (perform autopsies and examine cause of death)*
- Forensic Psychiatrist (assess and treat mental health of people)*
- Forensic Odontologist (study of dental structures)*
- Cybertechnologist (protect networks and data from attacks)*
- Environmental Scientist (uses analytical and environmental chemistry to examine evidence)*

**Crime Scene Team**

- Police Officer*
- Medic (provide medical assistance at the scene)*
- Investigator*
- Photographer*
- Field Evidence Technician (find and process evidence)*

**Lab Experts**

- DNA expert*
- Document and Handwriting experts*
- Bomb and arson experts*
- Fingerprint expert*