

FIVS 435

Four page review of a scientific discipline

Forensic scientists are expected to understand both the scientific and legal value of scientific research. Legal guidelines require that testimony be based on accepted practices in a particular field, however, each field differs in scientific quality. You are required to evaluate the quality of one forensic science. You must find a forensic scientific discipline that is presented in a court case found on either the LexisNexis or Westlaw databases; then you must find five related scientific articles evaluate the scientific quality the discipline.

Format: Minimum of four pages (not counting references); maximum of five pages; double spaced; 11 point text; Times New Roman font.

Due Date: March 6 (oral) and March 8 (written)

An assignment that is considered well written will possess the following:

1. Proper referencing
2. Logical, cohesive, accessible, respectful, and valid arguments
3. Logical organization
4. Arguments relevant to the topic
5. Proper grammar

A presentation that is considered well presented will possess the following:

1. A well prepared and presentable speaker (50 pts)
2. The same qualities noted for a well written paper (50 pts; 2 each for above and 4 each for below)
3. Engagement of the speaker with the audience (50)

FIVS 435 (150 points written, 150 points oral)

You will be evaluated on your comprehension of the scientific method as it applies to your chosen discipline. **You must address the following questions for a forensic science discipline:**

1. Are there testable hypotheses in the discipline?
2. If so, what are typical hypothesis tested in the discipline?
3. Are the predictions made by this field falsifiable?
4. How do researchers operationalize their hypotheses?
5. Do the researchers measure what they claim to measure?
6. Are the interpretations of the researchers valid?
7. Does the research in this discipline enable new predictions?
8. Are there major similarities or differences in the research conducted within the discipline?
9. Are there major disagreements within the discipline?
10. What features of the discipline contribute to or detract from its scientific quality?