

Name _____

Period _____



Fingerprint and Trace Evidence Expert's Research Worksheet

Using the websites, answer the following questions as completely as possible.

Fingerprint Evidence

1. Give two reasons why fingerprint evidence might be better than DNA evidence.
2. Why might a person's fingerprints be on file?
3. What two basic principles do fingerprint evidence rest on?
4. How are fingerprints made?
5. How can experts make fingerprints visible?

Fingerprint Patterns

1. List the nine different categories of fingerprints. (Some information will combine these into three main types – arch, whorl, and loop).
2. Contrast each type of fingerprint pattern (i.e. list the main differences among each pattern).

Biometric Patterns: About Fingerprints

1. List the eleven anatomic characteristics identified in this article.

****Most experts require between 7-15 points of identification to make a positive identification.**

Fingerprint Analysis - This site is to show you how the anatomic characteristics can be identified in a fingerprint.

Crime Library: Trace Evidence

1. What is Locard's Principle of Contact?

Hair Evidence Analysis

1. What type of evidence is hair considered and what can hair evidence not do?
2. What is the average number of samples taken from each person involved?
3. List some information that hair analysis can indicate.
4. Analysis of hair centers on what two aspects and how are they determined?
5. What three layers are included in the shaft?

Hair Anatomy and Growth

1. How can you tell if a hair was shed naturally or pulled out?

Human Hairs

1. Which hairs are usually the longest on the body?
2. Identify characteristics of hairs from different ethnicities.

