NS2232 – Introduction to Forensic Science
A Lab on Crime Scene Evaluation and Sketching

Objective
You will draw rough and final sketches of a crime scene, and explain the crime scene in a written report.

Background information
A murder has been committed. The victim was identified as a 25-year-old female. At 2:00 P.M. she was discovered by a maintenance worker. The victim has been stabbed in the chest and is laying face down when she was found. Nothing from the scene has been disturbed.

Materials
Æ Tape measure
Æ Compass
Æ Crime scene templates
Æ Clipboard
Æ Ruler
Æ Paper
Æ Pencil

Procedure
1. Determine roles for the lab
2. Identify all items in the room that you believe are physical evidence.
3. Place evidence markers next to each piece of physical evidence in the room.
4. Determine the width and length of the room (Record in Data Table 1)
5. Use a compass to determine the orientation of the room
6. Using the fixed coordinate method, use the long measuring tape to mark out the main line.
7. Using the shorter tapes, measure out the distances to other pieces of evidence; also determine the angle from the main line using the protractor.
8. Once your lines are all set, sketch the crime scene. As you work, follow these directions:
a. Draw the room in which the crime occurred. Your sketch should take up the paper.

b. Indicate North on your sketch.

c. Draw all doors and windows in their proper location.

d. Use squares and circles to represent the locations of different objects in the room. Draw larger objects with larger squares or circles. For example, a table should be larger than a chair. Instead of using circles and squares you can use the crime scene templates.

e. Label each piece of physical evidence on your sketch with the corresponding number from the evidence marker. At the bottom of the page, list each number and describe the item it identifies.

f. Use dashed lines to indicate the lines from the fixed points. Write the actual distances above the dashed lines on the drawing.

9. Use the “rough” sketch you made of the crime scene to draw a polished, final sketch.

10. The final sketch should:

   a. Be neatly drawn in black marker on a large sheet of poster paper
   b. Be drawn to scale. In your drawing let 1 inch equal 10 inches of space in the room.
   c. Label North on the drawing.
   d. Draw the squares and circles that represent physical evidence in proportion to each other. For instance, the tables should be drawn larger than the chairs, and the body, etc.
   e. Have the lines from the two fixed points in proportion to the rest of the drawing. Remember your scale; 1 inch equals 10 inch of actual length.
   f. Place the actual length and width of the room on the drawing, Place the actual distances of the evidence from the fixed points on the dashed lines (not the scale lines)
DATA TABLE 1
Measurements of room where crime occurred

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of room</th>
<th>Width of room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Post-lab Questions
1. Why are you asked to use fixed points in your drawing?
2. Why do you think you did not make your final, polished sketch at the crime scene?
3. Why bother to make a sketch when we have digital cameras and video cameras?
4. As a forensic scientist what is the first thing you should do when you arrive at a crime scene?

Evaluation Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rough Sketch Completed</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Sketch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➜ Neat</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➜ Drawn to scale</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➜ Evidence Labeled</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➜ North Labeled</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➜ Objects drawn in proportion</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➜ Based on rough sketch</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post lab questions</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment
Turn in:
1. Rough sketch
2. Finished drawing
3. Answers to Post lab questions. Write out answers in complete sentences.