

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will have gained a basic understanding of forensic psychology and its applications in criminal investigations.

## Materials and Prep

- Notebook or paper
- Pen or pencil
- Access to the internet for research

No prior knowledge or materials are required for this lesson.

## Activities

- Research famous forensic psychologists and their contributions to the field. Create a short presentation summarizing their work.
- Watch a documentary or read a book on a high-profile criminal case and analyze the role forensic psychology played in the investigation.
- Create a mock crime scene and apply forensic psychology techniques to analyze the behavior and motives of the perpetrator.
- Interview a professional forensic psychologist or reach out to a university professor specializing in forensic psychology for an online Q&A session.

## Talking Points

- Forensic psychology is a branch of psychology that applies psychological principles to the field of criminal justice and law enforcement.
- Forensic psychologists often work closely with law enforcement agencies and the legal system to provide insights into criminal behavior, evaluate suspects, and assist in the decision-making process.
- They utilize their knowledge of human behavior, cognition, and personality to understand the motives and actions of criminals.
- Forensic psychologists may conduct psychological assessments, such as evaluating the mental state of a defendant, determining their competency to stand trial, or assessing their risk of reoffending.
- They may also provide expert testimony in court, helping judges and juries understand the psychological factors involved in a criminal case.
- Forensic psychologists use various techniques, including profiling, crime scene analysis, and behavioral observation, to develop a comprehensive understanding of the individuals involved in a crime.
- They study criminal behavior patterns, psychopathy, and the impact of trauma on offenders, among other topics.
- Forensic psychology can contribute to the prevention of crime by identifying risk factors and developing intervention strategies.
- It is important to consider ethical issues in forensic psychology, such as maintaining confidentiality, avoiding bias, and ensuring the well-being of both victims and offenders.