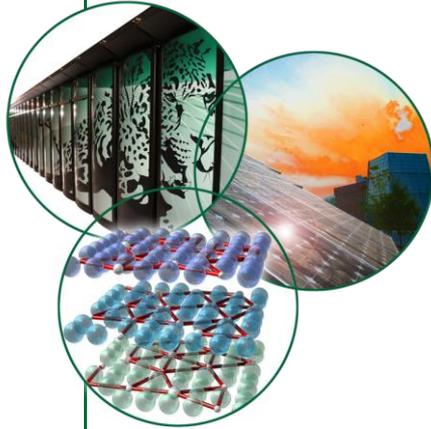


OBSERVATION SKILLS

Dawn Eipeldauer



Awareness Test

What are Inspectors Observing?



- Facility structure, equipment and processes
- Peoples behavior and interpersonal skills
 - Body language/facial expressions
 - Verbal and nonverbal communication
- Documentation and media
 - Records/log books
 - Photographs
 - Satellite images





From birth, we begin using our mind to observe things in our environment...

But few if any people bother to stop and ask, "Can I get better at observing?" and "Is observation just a talent you are born with or is it a skill that you can develop?"

As the first video showed, it is easy to miss something if you are not looking for it -- So why is observation training important?....



What are some basic things to remember when you are trying to gain experience and skill in observation?

One approach is to use a 4 step scientific method to organize, store and access what is in your brain

The next clip describes this process

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One of the worst enemies of observation is ASSUMPTION. Often, as seen in the first video, it's not that you CAN'T see the hidden item in the video, it's that you don't ALLOW your brain to work FREE OF ASSUMPTIONS that nothing else is going on.

How powerful is ASSUMPTION?

Here's a great example of just how far people will take assumption and allow it to skew their observations...

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Another key factor to remember about observation is that you are often observing people!

Often the people you are observing will be deceptive in some way.

Many profilers spend their lives learning how to identify deception, but for observation purposes, it is at least handy to know the basics...



Finally, we are all human...even Sherlock Holmes carried a notepad...

RECORD everything AS SOON AS YOU CAN. Studies show that the human memory begins to fade and erase details within MILLISECONDS of learning something. It's very, very important as an observer in training to record what you've learned as soon as possible to get as accurate data as possible



Let's review some key observation skills to begin working with as a foundation:

- Unclutter your brain (Think like Sherlock Holmes)
- Don't make assumptions(The ENEMY of good observation)
- Don't believe everything people tell you or show you(PEOPLE DO LIE!)
- Record everything as soon as you observe it (The memory begins to fade the moment you observe something)
- Don't forget to take a step back, gather your data, work in teams, and start over! Observation is an endless feedback loop.