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With increasing interest among undergraduate students in areas of forensic science and investigation, an introductory text dedicated to bridging information between both disciplines is of value in forensic programs. Forensic Science from the Crime Scene to the Crime Lab represents an excellent text that supplies important information of value to students in crime scene investigation programs who require an understanding of fundamental laboratory processes as well as those with a forensic science laboratory focus who would benefit from discussions of investigative processes at the crime scene.

The textbook is well structured over nineteen chapters plus appendices. Topics ranging from introductory materials, processes and procedures relating to securing, searching, and documenting to the reconstruction of the crime scene are discussed in detail. Chapters addressing evidence are well balanced and blend smoothly with key forensic areas of fingerprints, firearms, tool marks / impression analysis and trace evidence. Bloodstain pattern and biological stain analyses are handled separately and presented in a clear and concise manner for easy grasp of difficult concepts. Drugs, forensic toxicology, along with discussion points surrounding the medical examiners system and its role in death investigation round out the collection of topics. With greater integration of computers and hand held mobile electronic devices in contemporary forensics, chapters associated with these important subjects are appropriate with the level of information presented. The chapter dedicated to the forensics of arson and explosives is exemplary. These important related areas are discussed from a chemical standpoint that allows the readership with limited chemistry backgrounds to gain a solid foundation of information presented.
Pedagogy is developed and maintained throughout each chapter leading to effective learning and outcome measurements. Learning objectives are presented at various taxonomic levels in the beginning of each chapter. In turn, these are developed and reinforced by including chapter end reviews, referenced terminology, and questions for review reflective of materials presented. Most laudatory are applications to topics requiring critical thinking on the part of the student leading to competency. Forensic case presentations are found throughout the text as ‘CASEFILES’. These pivotal cases allow for analysis and possible adaptation as part of ‘forensic logic trees’ for use in student group discussions in classroom activity. Chapter presentations hold the attention of the readership by supplementing text materials with an abundance of effective tables, documents, and pictures enhancing materials discussed. For students requiring guided study materials supporting course examinations, the strategic placements of ‘quick reviews’ within chapters are a welcomed enhancement. Included appendices contain additional relevant information for students.

In summary, *Forensic Science from the Crime Scene to the Crime Lab* by Richard Saferstein is a recommended textbook for those who desire a succinct resource that introduces fundamentals of forensics pertinent to study of the crime scene and interconnected with laboratory assessments. In addition, the text materials presented would be of value to individuals with a forensic science or investigative background who wish to review topics to reinforce prior acquired knowledge. As part of curriculum program focus, this textbook would be most complimentary in crime scene investigation courses or forensic investigation programs where strong backgrounds in biological or physical sciences is not a required pre-requisite. Topics associated with contemporary forensic applications are developed and presented supportive of undergraduate student readership. *Forensic Science from the Crime Scene to the Crime Lab* by Richard Saferstein deserves a spot on the bookshelf of any individual who wishes to learn about the real world of forensics.