

## 11 and 12 vocabulary

1. **res gestae statements** spontaneous statements made at the time a crime is committed and closely related to actions involved in the crime. Considered more truthful than later, planned responses.
2. **civil liability** person's risk of being sued. Any person acting under the authority of law who violates another person's constitutional rights can be sued.
3. **community policing** philosophy that the police must work with the community through partnerships and problem solving to address problems of crime and disorder; a belief that by working together, the police and the community can accomplish what neither can accomplish alone.
4. **crime** act or omission forbidden by law and punishable by a fine, imprisonment or even death. Crimes and their penalties are established and defined by state and federal statutes and local ordinances.
5. **crime mapping** focuses on the location of crimes—the hot spots where most crimes occur—rather than on the criminal.
6. **criminal intent** performing an unlawful act on purpose, knowing the act to be illegal.
7. **criminal investigation** seeking all facts associated with a crime to determine the truth: what happened and who is responsible.
8. **criminal statute** legislative act relating to crime and its punishment.
9. **criminalist** a person who searches for, collects and preserves physical evidence in the investigation of crime and suspected criminals. Also called a crime scene technician, examiner or investigator.
10. **criminalistics** branch of forensic science involved with the recording, identification and interpretation of the minutiae (minute details) of physical evidence.
11. **culturally adroit** skilled in interacting across gender, ethnic, generational, social and political group lines.
12. **data mining** process that uses powerful analytical tools to quickly and thoroughly explore mountains of data to discover new patterns or confirm suspected patterns or trends.
13. **deductive reasoning** a logical process in which a conclusion follows from specific facts; a reconstructive process based on specific pieces of evidence to establish proof that a suspect is guilty of an offense.
14. **elements of the crime** conditions that must exist and be proven to exist for an act to be called a specific kind of crime.
15. **exculpatory evidence** physical evidence favorable to the accused, that would clear the accused of blame; for example, having a blood type different from that found at a homicide.
16. **fact** an action, an event, a circumstance or an actual thing done.
17. **felony** major crime such as homicide, aggravated assault or robbery. Usually carries a penalty of imprisonment in a state penitentiary or death.
18. **forensic science** application of the physical sciences and their technology to examining physical evidence of crimes; includes the branch of criminalistics.
19. **hot spots** geographic areas with a higher incidence rate of criminal activity.

20. **inductive reasoning** making a generalization and establishing it by gathering specific facts.
21. **inference** a process of reasoning by which a fact may be deduced.
22. **intuition** a “sudden knowing” without any conscious reasoning or apparent logic. Based on knowledge and experience or what is commonly called street sense. An intangible urge; a “gut feeling” developed by experience.
23. **investigate** to observe or study closely; to inquire into something systematically in a search for truthful information.
24. **leads** avenues bearing clues or potential sources of information relevant to solving a crime.
25. **Locard’s principle of exchange** basic forensic theory that objects that come in contact with each other always transfer material, however minute, to each other.
26. **misdemeanor** minor crime such as shoplifting or pilferage; less serious than a felony. Usually carries a fine or a short sentence in a county or municipal jail.
27. **modus operandi (MO)** characteristic way a criminal commits a specific type of crime.
28. **opinion** personal belief.
29. **ordinance** act of the legislative body of a municipality or county relating to all the rules governing the municipality or county, including misdemeanor crimes.