The Science of Interviewing and Interrogation: 
The Information Cycle

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whether the subject represents a victim, witness, source, or suspect, the information being sought by an investigative interview resides in the persons memory

human memory is reconstructive in nature (not veridical) and quite malleable – successful elicitation therein requires an understanding of the principles of memory retrieval
when in a cooperative context, the most prevalent resistance posture for a subject is to strategically manage the release of information to address this, investigators must engage in effective elicitation (to reveal breadth of knowledge and relevant inconsistencies), and then strategically question and leverage evidence or information.
Investigative Interviews

- Cooperation
- Alternative Hypotheses
- Rules & Expectations
- Open-Ended Funnels
Conversational Rapport

**AUTONOMY:** agent shows acceptance that it is the subject’s choice not to talk or cooperate; prime openness and autonomy in the room.

**EVOCATION:** agent draws out the subject; curious and patient; guides subject to the reasons they hold for cooperating.

**ACCEPTANCE:** extent to which agent communicates unconditional positive regard

**ADAPTATION:** agent adapts to responses of the subject, allows the subject some influence on the agenda of the interview.

**EMPATHY:** extent to which agent attempts to understand the subject’s perspective.

Alison et al. (2013, 2014)
Elicitation Tactics

- **O** Open-Ended Questions
- **A** Affirmations
- **R** Reflective Listening
- **S** Summaries
Elicitation Tactics

- T.E.D. Questions
- Open Probes
- Specific Probes
- Appropriate Closed
- Summary
Elicitation Tactics

Objective #1

Objective #2

Objective #3

Conceal Objective #1
Cognitive Interview

30 years of research has now demonstrated that a "cognitive interview" approach can dramatically increase the amount information recalled (Geiselman & Fisher, 1992)

Memon, Meissner, & Fraser (2010)
Cognitive Interview

- **Shift control**
  - Encourage “don’t know” and discourage guessing
  - Open-ended, uninterrupted recall

- Mnemonics:
  - Reverse order
  - Change Perspective
  - Draw a Sketch
  - Open-ended, uninterrupted recall

- **Eye-Closure**
  - Context Reinstatement
  - Open-ended, uninterrupted recall