

# Student Workbook: Investigative Grids

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Use the fictional case packet to complete each blank grid. The answer key at the end provides one reasonable way to organize the facts. Your answers may differ if they are supported by the case facts.

## Part I - Blank Student Grids

### Discovery Index Grid

Use the index as the master control document.

| Disc # | Item | Source | Date | Investigator Notes |
|--------|------|--------|------|--------------------|
|        |      |        |      |                    |
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Notes:

# Discovery Summary Grid

This grid separates what the evidence says from what the State wants it to mean.

| Source | Claim | Date | Conditions | Credibility / Follow-Up |
|--------|-------|------|------------|-------------------------|
|        |       |      |            |                         |
|        |       |      |            |                         |
|        |       |      |            |                         |
|        |       |      |            |                         |
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|        |       |      |            |                         |

Notes:

# Witness Analysis Grid

Witnesses are not equal just because they appear in the same police report.

| Witness | Relationship | Bias / Interest | Statement | Changes | Follow-Up |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|         |              |                 |           |         |           |
|         |              |                 |           |         |           |
|         |              |                 |           |         |           |
|         |              |                 |           |         |           |
|         |              |                 |           |         |           |

Notes:

Evidence Grid

Evidence must be evaluated by collection, chain of custody, testing, and interpretation.

| Evidence Item | Location / Collection | Chain of Custody | Testing Method | Defense Issue |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
|               |                       |                  |                |               |
|               |                       |                  |                |               |
|               |                       |                  |                |               |
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Notes:

# Victimology

Victimology is not victim blaming.

| Category | Known Information | Investigative Value | Follow-Up |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
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Notes:

# Timeline Analysis

The timeline is where weak cases often start to crack.

| Time | Event | Source | Conflict / Issue | Defense Follow-Up |
|------|-------|--------|------------------|-------------------|
|      |       |        |                  |                   |
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Notes:

State Theory Mapping

Break the State's story into separate claims.

| State Claim | Evidence Relied On | Assumption | Defense Question | Weakness |
|-------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|----------|
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Notes:

# Guilt Phase Element Mapping

Tie the evidence to the legal elements.

| Element | State Evidence | Defense Review | Missing Proof | Reasonable Doubt Theme |
|---------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
|         |                |                |               |                        |
|         |                |                |               |                        |
|         |                |                |               |                        |
|         |                |                |               |                        |
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Notes:

## Aggravator Mapping

Aggravators must be proven separately and legally, not emotionally.

| Potential Aggravator | State Evidence | Defense Review | Issue for Investigation |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
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Notes:

Search Warrant Review

Review the affidavit before reviewing the return.

| Issue | Affidavit / Warrant Fact | Defense Concern | Follow-Up |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
|       |                          |                 |           |
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Notes:

# Digital Evidence Grid

Digital evidence feels precise to jurors, but often is not.

| Digital Source | State Use | Limitations | Defense Action |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
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Notes:

Forensic Reliability Review

Forensic results must be separated from forensic interpretation.

| Forensic Area | State Finding | Reliability Concern | Defense Review |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
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Notes:

Miranda / Suppression Review

Create a minute-by-minute custody and interrogation timeline.

| Event | Time | Fact | Legal Question | Defense Issue |
|-------|------|------|----------------|---------------|
|       |      |      |                |               |
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Notes:

# Defense Theory Construction

A defense theory is built from evidence, not invented facts.

| State Claim | Defense Theory | Supporting Facts | Investigation Needed |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
|             |                |                  |                      |
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Notes:

## Part II - Completed Answer Key

### Discovery Index Grid

| Disc # | Item                  | Source           | Date         | Investigator Notes                                                                    |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 001    | Incident report       | Camden County SO | 3/18/26      | Initial narrative says suspect wore black hoodie and red shoes.                       |
| 002    | 911 audio/CAD         | Dispatch         | 3/18/26      | Caller estimated one shot at 9:42 p.m.; caller sounded unsure on direction of travel. |
| 003    | Store surveillance    | Lakeside Market  | 3/18/26      | Interior video partially blocked by display rack; face not visible.                   |
| 004    | Neighbor Ring video   | Mrs. Albright    | 3/18/26      | Dark compact car at 9:37 p.m.; plate unreadable.                                      |
| 005    | Witness statements    | CCSO             | 3/18-3/20/26 | Two witnesses conflict on suspect height and shoes.                                   |
| 006    | Search warrant return | Superior Court   | 3/20/26      | Hoodie, shoes, phone, and cash seized from Marcus's apartment.                        |
| 007    | Phone extraction      | GBI Digital Lab  | 3/24/26      | Extraction incomplete; deleted message recovery not validated.                        |
| 008    | Lab report            | GBI Crime Lab    | 4/05/26      | Mixed DNA on hoodie cuff; major contributor not conclusively identified.              |

### Discovery Summary Grid

| Source               | Claim                                        | Date    | Conditions                                        | Credibility / Follow-Up                              |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Incident report      | Masked suspect shot clerk during robbery     | 3/18/26 | Chaotic scene; officer arrived after suspect fled | Confirm with video and 911 timing.                   |
| Store video          | Suspect wore black hoodie, gloves, red shoes | 3/18/26 | Low angle; face obscured                          | Helpful for clothing, weak for identity.             |
| Ring video           | Dark Honda-type vehicle near rear alley      | 3/18/26 | Night video; no plate                             | Cannot identify driver or exact model.               |
| Witness - Carla Wynn | Recognized Marcus's voice                    | 3/19/26 | Stressful event; knew Marcus casually             | Statement strengthened after detective showed photo. |
| Cell tower records   | Marcus's phone used sector near store        | 3/18/26 | Sector covers several businesses and apartments   | Location evidence is not pinpoint proof.             |
| Lab report           | DNA mixture on hoodie cuff                   | 4/05/26 | Mixture; possible transfer                        | Needs independent forensic review.                   |

### Witness Analysis Grid

| Witness             | Relationship                             | Bias / Interest            | Statement                               | Changes                                  | Follow-Up                           |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Carla Wynn          | Customer; knows Marcus from neighborhood | Wants reward money; scared | Says voice sounded like Marcus          | First said 'maybe'; later said 'sure'    | Explore photo exposure and reward.  |
| Owen Blake          | Customer in parking lot                  | No known bias              | Saw suspect run to dark car             | Changed car from sedan to hatchback      | Re-interview with video stills.     |
| Nina Price          | Victim's sister                          | Grief; wants arrest        | Victim argued with TJ Mills days before | Consistent                               | Obtain texts and social media.      |
| Terrance 'TJ' Mills | Victim's acquaintance                    | Alternate suspect          | Claims he was home                      | Alibi unsupported until after arrest     | Verify phone, work, vehicle access. |
| Det. Grant          | Lead detective                           | Case confirmation risk     | Focused on Marcus after voice ID        | Did not document alternate suspect steps | Request notes/body cam.             |

### Evidence Grid

| Evidence Item | Location / Collection       | Chain of Custody          | Testing Method              | Defense Issue                                    |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Black hoodie  | Marcus's closet; Det. Grant | Logged 3/20 at 11:48 p.m. | DNA swabs; fiber comparison | Common clothing; mixed DNA; transfer possible.   |
| Red shoes     | Marcus's bedroom            | Photo then seized         | Visual comparison to video  | No footwear impression comparison completed.     |
| \$327 cash    | Kitchen drawer              | Seized under warrant      | No serial number comparison | Store cash amount estimated, not documented.     |
| 9mm casing    | Behind counter              | CSI Allen                 | Ballistics entry only       | No firearm recovered; casing proves caliber, not |

|            |                     |                      |                               |                                               |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|            |                     |                      |                               | shooter.                                      |
| Phone      | Marcus's nightstand | Bagged and extracted | Cellebrite partial extraction | Extraction incomplete; location data limited. |
| Ring video | Neighbor download   | Exported by owner    | Video review                  | No original file hash documented.             |

## Victimology

| Category        | Known Information                                          | Investigative Value                          | Follow-Up                                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Employment      | Daniel Price, 42, clerk/assistant manager                  | Knew store cash handling and closing routine | Review employee conflicts and schedule access. |
| Relationships   | Close to sister Nina; conflict with TJ Mills               | Provides alternate motive area               | Get calls/texts between Daniel and TJ.         |
| Recent Conflict | TJ accused Daniel of keeping money from informal card game | Potential motive unrelated to Marcus         | Interview card-game witnesses.                 |
| Finances        | No major debt found; helped sister financially             | Weakens robbery-as-personal motive           | Review bank records if subpoenaed.             |
| Routine         | Often closed alone Wednesday nights                        | Known routine could be exploited             | Who knew schedule?                             |
| Digital/Social  | Recent messages about 'TJ acting crazy'                    | Supports alternate suspect investigation     | Preserve victim phone/cloud accounts.          |

## Timeline Analysis

| Time       | Event                                       | Source            | Conflict / Issue                         | Defense Follow-Up                        |
|------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 8:55 p.m.  | Marcus seen at cousin's apartment           | Cousin Malik      | Cousin is biased                         | Pull apartment camera if available.      |
| 9:31 p.m.  | Carla enters store                          | Store video       | Confirmed                                | Use as anchor point.                     |
| 9:37 p.m.  | Dark car passes alley                       | Ring video        | No plate; no driver                      | Compare with other neighborhood cameras. |
| 9:42 p.m.  | Gunshot/911 call                            | 911/CAD           | Caller unsure exact direction fled       | Sync CAD, video, and medical timeline.   |
| 9:46 p.m.  | Owen sees suspect running                   | Witness statement | Timing conflicts with video exit at 9:43 | Re-create line of sight.                 |
| 10:03 p.m. | Marcus phone connects near apartment sector | Cell records      | Sector also covers market area           | Get engineer map and drive test.         |
| 10:28 p.m. | Marcus posts online                         | Phone extraction  | Could be user or someone with phone      | Attribute device use carefully.          |

## State Theory Mapping

| State Claim                  | Evidence Relied On         | Assumption                         | Defense Question                | Weakness                                     |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Marcus was the masked robber | Carla's voice ID; clothing | Voice ID reliable under stress     | What did Carla first say?       | Statement strengthened after photo exposure. |
| Marcus drove the getaway car | Dark Honda-type car        | Car was his Honda                  | Can plate/driver be identified? | Video cannot identify driver or plate.       |
| Marcus shot Daniel           | 9mm casing; robbery video  | Robber and shooter are same person | Any firearm recovered?          | No gun, no prints, no eyewitness to face.    |
| Cash was robbery proceeds    | \$327 in drawer            | Cash came from store               | Were serial numbers known?      | Store cash loss estimated after the fact.    |
| Phone places Marcus at scene | Cell tower sector          | Sector equals location             | How large was sector coverage?  | Sector includes apartment complex and store. |

## Guilt Phase Element Mapping

| Element         | State Evidence                           | Defense Review                               | Missing Proof                      | Reasonable Doubt Theme                          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Identity        | Voice ID, clothing, cell tower           | All are circumstantial and imprecise         | No face, no plate, no confession   | The case identifies possibility, not certainty. |
| Causation       | Autopsy: gunshot caused death            | Cause likely undisputed                      | N/A                                | Focus remains on who fired.                     |
| Malice / Intent | Gun pointed during robbery               | Intent may be inferred if shooter identified | No statement of intent             | State must first prove Marcus was shooter.      |
| Armed Robbery   | Video shows demand for money and firearm | Robbery occurred; identity disputed          | No recovered weapon or marked cash | Robbery proof does not equal Marcus proof.      |
| Felony Murder   | Death during robbery                     | Depends on proving Marcus committed felony   | Identity link weak                 | If identity fails, felony murder fails.         |

## Aggravator Mapping

| Potential Aggravator        | State Evidence            | Defense Review                             | Issue for Investigation                         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Murder during armed robbery | Video and cash drawer     | Underlying felony identity disputed        | Separate proof of robbery from proof of Marcus. |
| Pecuniary gain              | Money taken from register | May overlap with armed robbery             | Check statutory theory and notice.              |
| Prior violent history       | None disclosed            | No prior qualifying conviction             | Verify criminal history certified copies.       |
| Torture/aggravated battery  | Single gunshot            | No evidence of prolonged suffering/torture | Challenge emotional overstatement.              |

## Search Warrant Review

| Issue          | Affidavit / Warrant Fact                        | Defense Concern                             | Follow-Up                           |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Probable Cause | Voice ID + dark Honda + prior shoplifting call  | Voice ID not fully documented               | Get full interview recording.       |
| Nexus          | Marcus owns dark Honda and lives 1.2 miles away | Weak nexus to clothing/gun inside apartment | Compare with warrant standards.     |
| Particularity  | Any phones, computers, clothing, weapons, cash  | Broad electronic search language            | Assess overbreadth/particularity.   |
| Staleness      | Warrant sought 42 hours after event             | Likely fresh for clothing/phone             | Less issue than scope/nexus.        |
| Execution      | Search began 10:55 p.m.                         | Nighttime search not separately justified   | Review authorization language.      |
| Return         | Laptop listed late by handwritten note          | Inventory inconsistency                     | Request body cam and property logs. |

## Digital Evidence Grid

| Digital Source     | State Use                        | Limitations                               | Defense Action                                |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Cell tower records | Places Marcus near store         | Sector covers several blocks              | Obtain tower map and expert review.           |
| Phone extraction   | Shows online post after homicide | Extraction incomplete; attribution issue  | Request raw extraction and validation.        |
| Store video        | Shows clothing and weapon        | Face obscured; low quality                | Enhancement by neutral expert only.           |
| Ring video         | Dark car near alley              | No plate, driver, or timestamp sync proof | Get original file/hash and camera clock data. |
| Victim phone       | Messages about TJ conflict       | Cloud not fully preserved                 | Subpoena provider and preserve account.       |
| Social media       | Old argument with Marcus         | Argument 8 weeks old                      | Context and full thread needed.               |

## Forensic Reliability Review

| Forensic Area    | State Finding                         | Reliability Concern                                 | Defense Review                                  |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| DNA              | Mixed profile on hoodie cuff          | Mixture interpretation; transfer possible           | Consult DNA expert; request electropherograms.  |
| Fingerprints     | No usable prints on counter           | Absence not identity proof                          | Confirm surfaces processed properly.            |
| Ballistics       | 9mm casing entered into NIBIN         | No firearm recovered                                | Casing cannot identify shooter alone.           |
| GSR              | No GSR test completed                 | Missed opportunity; no result to support shooter ID | Document investigative gap.                     |
| Video comparison | Detective says shoes 'look similar'   | Lay visual comparison is subjective                 | Need footwear/video analyst if used.            |
| Pathology        | Single chest wound; death at hospital | Time of death range broader than State timeline     | Clarify medical timeline and survival interval. |

## Miranda / Suppression Review

| Event            | Time            | Fact                                  | Legal Question       | Defense Issue                                   |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Traffic stop     | 3/20, 7:15 p.m. | Marcus stopped leaving work           | Detention or arrest? | Stop basis unclear.                             |
| Handcuffed       | 7:18 p.m.       | Placed in patrol car                  | Custody likely?      | Yes, reasonable person not free to leave.       |
| Questioned       | 7:22 p.m.       | Detective asks 'Where's the gun?'     | Interrogation?       | Likely express questioning.                     |
| Statement        | 7:23 p.m.       | Marcus says 'I don't have it anymore' | Miranda given?       | No warning yet.                                 |
| Miranda          | 7:41 p.m.       | Rights read at station                | Taint issue?         | Earlier statement may contaminate later waiver. |
| Formal interview | 8:03 p.m.       | Marcus denies shooting                | Voluntary/knowing?   | Review recording for coercion and invocation.   |

Defense Theory Construction

| State Claim                             | Defense Theory                                           | Supporting Facts                                  | Investigation Needed                        |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Marcus committed robbery                | State rushed to Marcus because he was familiar to police | Voice ID changed; car unclear; phone sector broad | Challenge identification process.           |
| Marcus's clothing matches               | Common clothing, no unique identifiers                   | Hoodie and red shoes are generic                  | Footwear/video expert review.               |
| Cash links Marcus                       | Cash not tied to store                                   | No serial numbers; amount uncertain               | Audit register records and deposit logs.    |
| Digital evidence places Marcus at scene | Location evidence is approximate                         | Tower sector includes other locations             | Cell expert and coverage maps.              |
| No alternate suspect                    | TJ Mills had motive and opportunity                      | Victim messages; recent money dispute             | Develop TJ timeline, phone, vehicle access. |