

CSI vs Reality

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<http://cms.gavirtualschool.org/Shared/Science/ForensicScience/02%20Introduction%20to%20Forensic%20Science/index.html>

Often times what is seen on TV does not represent “real life”. It is important that you understand this before you proceed in the course. In this assignment you will read 2 different articles and answer questions on *CSI* versus Reality! Be sure to record your answers in a *DIFFERENT COLOR*.

Part I : The ‘*CSI*’ Effect by Richard Willing

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-08-05-csi-effect_x.htm

1. Why did defense attorney Hirschhorn want people who watched *CSI* as jurors for his client Mr. Durst?
2. What percentage of people in the jury pool watched *CSI* or similar shows?
3. What “mistaken notion” do programs such as *CSI* promote?
4. What complaint do defense lawyers have about *CSI* type shows?
5. What complaint do prosecutors have about *CSI* type shows?
6. Give 2 examples of how the *CSI* effect has been “felt beyond the courtroom”.
7. The article states that the “main fault” of shows such as *CSI* is that “The science is always above reproach.” Explain what that means in your own words.

Part II: Prime-Time Crime TV Exposed by Dan Skantar

<http://www.firearmsid.com/Feature%20Articles/crimeTV/crimeTV.htm>

1. What are the 2 critical roles a forensic scientist plays?
2. Complete the table.

Myth	TV	Reality
1		
2		
3		
4		

Sources:

www.usatoday.com

www.firearmsid.com