








COGNITIVE INTERVIEWING

Ask the interviewee to mentally relive the incident. Allow sufficient time to develop a mental image. Instruct the interviewee to tell you everything that happened and to edit nothing.

e.g. Mr Smith, I want you to think about the dog attack you saw at 7.00am on Monday the 20 June 2024 at Laguna Park, Palm Beach. Picture in your mind where you were; think about what you could see and hear all around you, and what you were doing at the time. (pause to allow mental picture to be created) please describe everything that happened in as much detail as you can and try not to leave anything out."

I saw the male person walking a grey coloured Bull mastiff dog. I was sitting in my car parked opposite the Lagunas Park.	I saw the male walk towards the toilets and then remove the dog's harness. The dog was running around.	About 5 minutes later I saw a woman pushing a pram. The pram contained a small toddler. I saw the dog run to this woman.	I saw the woman freeze, the dog then attacked her for about 3 minutes, it bit her on the leg. I saw the owner of the dog run towards this woman. The dog then ran off.	A short time later the ambulance arrived and took her and her child to a waiting ambulance.
				

5WH—EVENT LINE

QUESTION TYPES AND EXAMPLES

- **Direct questions** tell me what you saw ?
- **Closed questions** those answered with 'yes or no'
- **Leading questions**- answer contained in or suggested by the question - you would have... wouldn't you?
- **Open questions** - those questions starting with who, what, when, where, why or how. These questions do not suggest an answer and will require an answer with content.

T.E.D.S. ACRONYM

1) TELL me..

- ◇ Tell me about your day from the time you got to work until the incident?
- ◇ Tell me more about why you think ...
- ◇ Tell me why you would say that?
- ◇ Tell me the process that you undertook ...

2) EXPLAIN to me..

- ◇ Explain more about how ...
- ◇ Explain to Judy the impact her actions had ...

3) DESCRIBE to me..

- ◇ Describe, in as much detail as you can everything you saw?
- ◇ Describe more to me why/about/how ...

4) SHOW me..

- ◇ Show me what happened..

REMEMBER

1. Do not interrupt the interviewee.
2. Do not hurry the interviewee, the interview should be at their pace.
3. Allow the interviewee to describe what happened their way, even when it does not seem relevant to the topic; and
4. Use pauses and open prompts as minimal encouragers.
5. Used for victims, witnesses, cooperative suspects, and community sources.



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