

MIKE THOMPSON
CEO / INVESTIGATOR



A Practical Guide to Interviewing



### Mike Thompson

- CEO of Bearden Investigative Agency, Inc.
- National Training Manager for Macy's / Bloomingdale's
- Police Officer Merseyside Police
- Certified Cryptocurrency Forensic Investigator
- Region 1 Director for Texas Association of Licensed Investigators

### Learning Objectives

Basic Understanding of some interview techniques

P.E.A.C.E Framework

Preparing for an interview

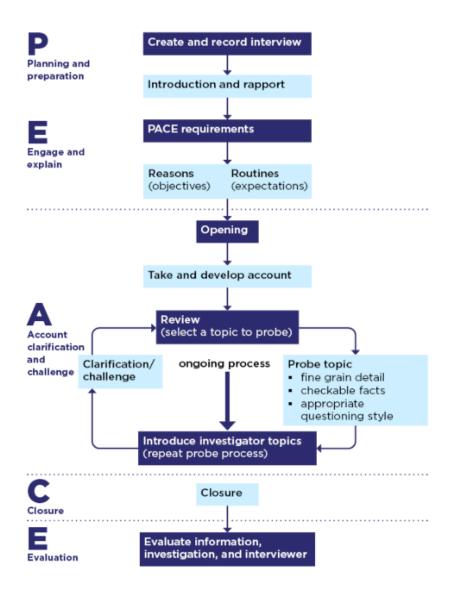
Types of questions that can be useful and harmful to an investigation

Challenging False Information

### Common Techniques

- Reid Technique
- Wicklander-Zulawski Technique
- STAR Method
- Kinesic Method
- PEACE Method





#### Structure

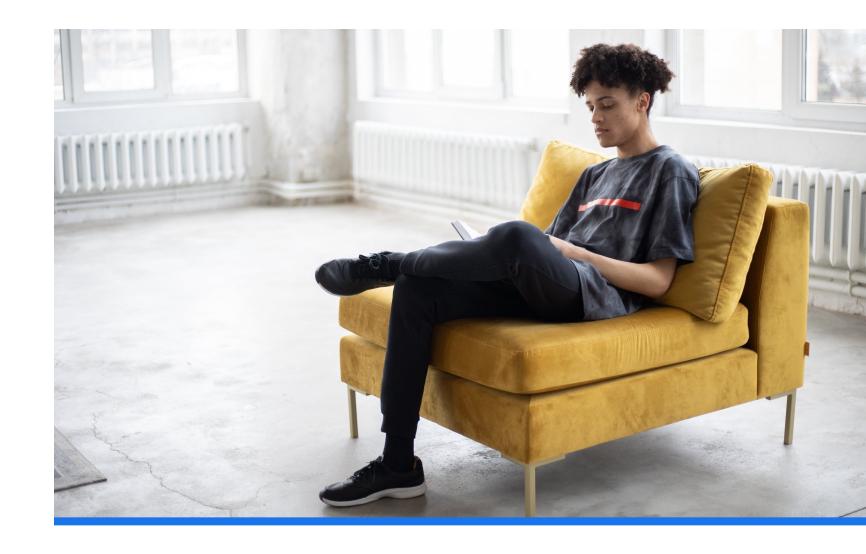
Investigative interviewing. College of Policing. (n.d.). Retrieved February 20, 2023, from <a href="https://www.college.police.uk/app/investigation/investigative-interviewing/investigative-interviewing#peace-model">https://www.college.police.uk/app/investigative-interviewing#peace-model</a>

### Plan and Prepare

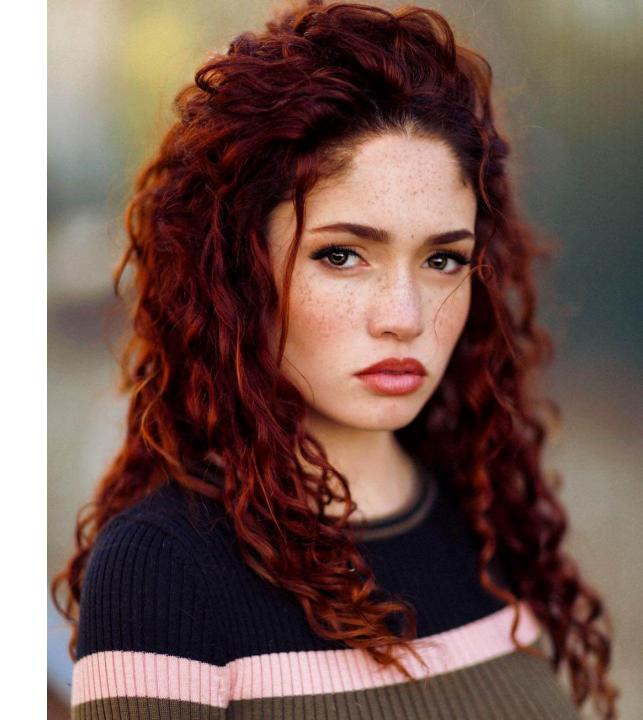
- Plan your objective ahead of time
- Review your facts and important questions
- Aide Memoire
- Stationary
- Recording Device
- Location
- Timing
- Rapport



Creating the right atmosphere



How to Present Yourself





What about this person?

Or this person?

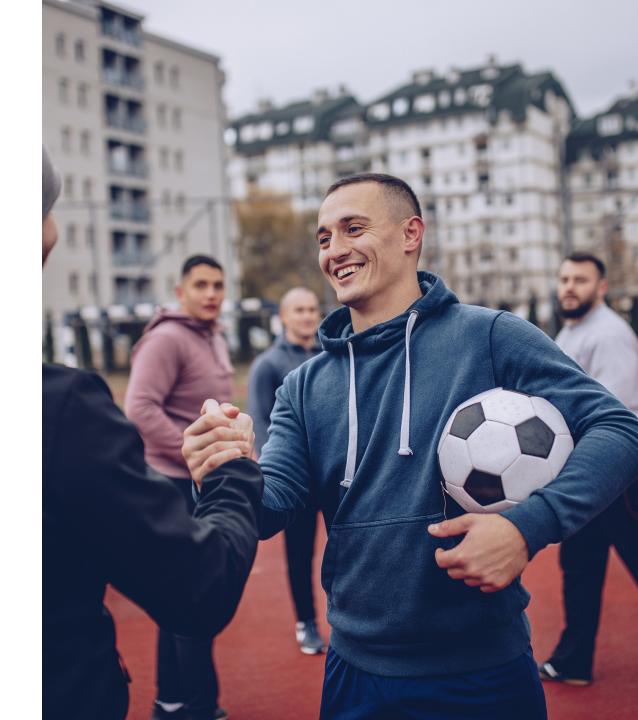


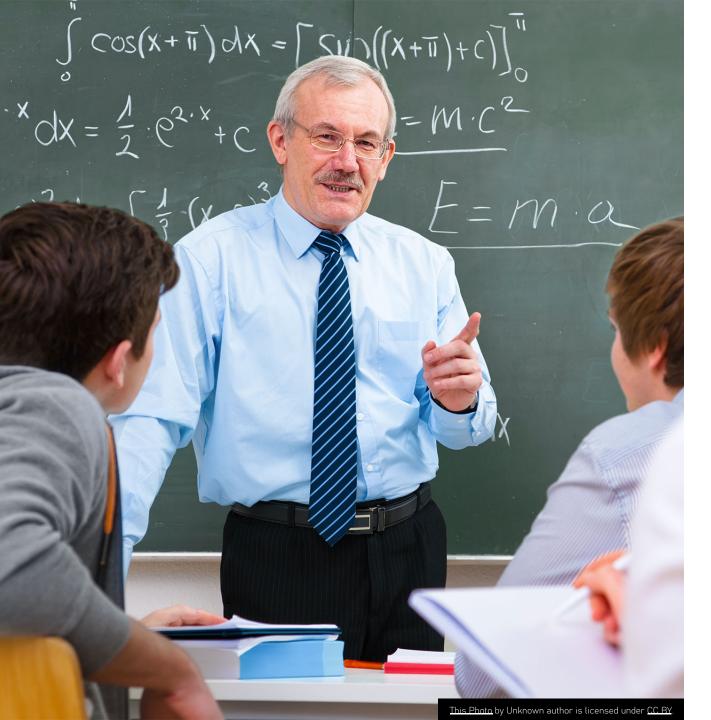
#### Real world

What if you have to go to them and have no control over the environment?

What if you get stuck in traffic on your way and you are late?

What other real world shenanigans could derail your finely crafted plan?





# Engage and Explain

- Objectives
- Expectations

# Account and Clarification

- Take an uninterrupted account of events
- Review the account
- Pick a topic important to your investigation
- Develop the topic through probing and clarification
- Repeat on the next topic





- Open Ended
- Specific Open / Probing
- Closed
- Leading

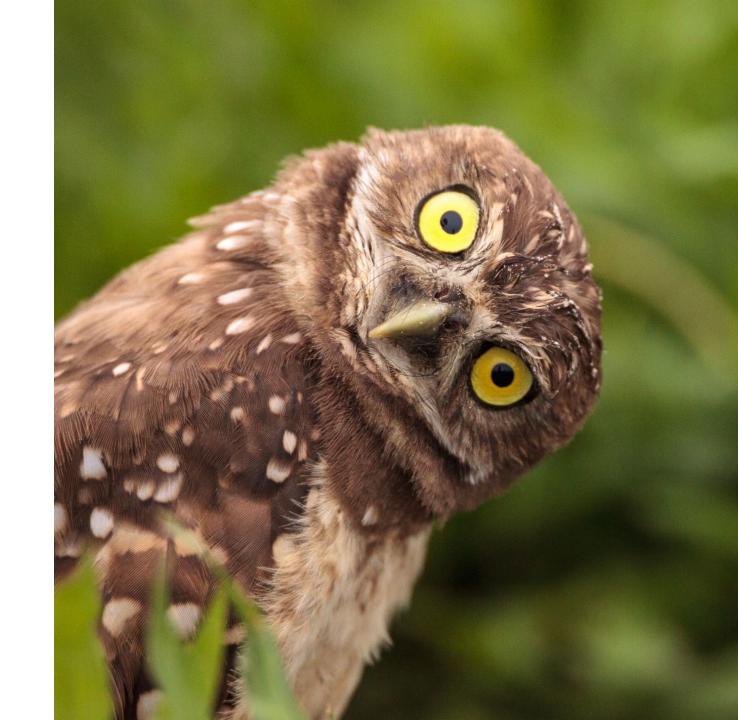
## Cautions when developing an account

- Don't topic hop
- Don't speculate
- Don't use opinion
- Don't interrupt



# How do I challenge something in the account?

- Timing your challenge appropriately
- Try a clarification seeking approach
- Ask for an explanation of the discrepancy
- Challenge, don't criticize





### Closure

- Summarize
- Confirm the account and your understanding
- What happens next?

#### Evaluation

- Evaluate the information you obtained
- How does this fit into your investigation?
- How did you do as an investigator?







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THANK YOU