

Investigating and Gathering Evidence

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Investigating is searching for facts, information, or evidence.

You use investigating when

- you look for something you've misplaced
- you try to figure out why your pet is acting differently than usual
- you check out advertising claims about a product you might buy
- you research the answer to a question

When else would investigating be important?

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Cluster Question: Whodunit?

Investigating: When you investigate, you ask questions and search for facts, information, or evidence.

Directions: On the following screens, note how one reader pointed out evidence in, and asked questions about, details in Passage A. After reading Passage B, make similar notes in the space provided.

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Passage A

In at least one well-documented case in the summer of 1991, [meteorologist George Terence] Meaden and a team of visiting Japanese scientists were watching a field with electronic equipment that included radar (sound waves), magnetometers

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(which measure magnetic force), night-vision video cameras, and motion sensors. Blanketed by mist, a small dumbbell formation appeared; yet none of the sensing equipment noted intruders!

from “Crop Circles,” p. 75

Evidence: A crop circle formed while investigators were nearby. And the mist might be evidence that the circle was formed by a strange weather occurrence.

Question: Would night-vision cameras be able to record in a mist?

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Passage B

My first stop was the Hall of Records at the Santa Teresa Courthouse two and a half blocks away. I filled out a copy order, supplying the necessary information, and paid seven bucks in cash. An hour later, I returned to pick up

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the certified copy of Margery Crispin's death certificate. Cause of death was listed as a "myocardial infarction." The certificate was signed by Dr. Yee, one of the contract pathologists out at the county morgue. If Marge

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Crispin had been the victim of foul play,
it was hard to believe Dr. Yee wouldn't
have spotted it.

from "A Poison That Leaves No Trace,"

p. 59–60

Evidence:

Question: _____
