**Police Interrogation Practices Compared to Known Effective Interviewing Techniques**

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### Abstract
This poster provides knowledge on research-based interrogation techniques. It shows how police officers, despite their training and knowledge, do not typically utilize such methods. It describes research showing that police consistently use other techniques and disregard their training on effective interrogations. These police officer errors will be discussed and explained.

### Statement of Problem
Despite thorough training and educational opportunities, police officers continue to utilize non-effective techniques for interrogations.

### Known Effective Strategies
- Strategies that have been proven to be most effective include:
  - using open-ended questioning
  - having a non-judgmental approach
  - utilizing active listening skills (Mitchell, 2015)

- Another best practice is the 80/20 rule:
  - the person being interviewed should do 80% of the talking
  - the interviewer should only be talking about 20% of the time during the interview (Snook et al., 2012)

### Errors and issues
- Police officers may allow their preconceived ideas about a suspect and suspected crimes to cloud their judgment

- Research shows that police officers are often unable to control their biased thoughts and take those thoughts with them into interrogations (Read et al., 2013).

- This bias decreases the amount of information the suspects provide during the interrogation (Read et al., 2013).

- Police officers may present false evidence to suspects or isolate suspects in an attempt to gain a confession.
- At times they are vague or provide hope that the suspect can get a deal before their friends.
- Some researchers found that police utilize manipulation and coercion to get confessions (Cleary & Bull, 2019).
- Officers may use ploys that take advantage of the suspects’ religious beliefs, conscience, and morals (Areh et al., 2016).
- Other studies found that police talked more than the 20% they were supposed to and were trained to.
- Often, they shut down the suspect and would not allow them to provide the information the police needed (Snook et al., 2012).

- Police officers are also known to stop suspects when they are trying to tell their side of the story, if it is not the story officers want to hear (Areh et al., 2016)

### Known Effective Strategies (cont’d)
- Using open-ended questioning
- Having a non-judgmental approach
- Utilizing active listening skills (Mitchell, 2015)

### Errors and issues (cont’d)
- Police officers may present false evidence to suspects or isolate suspects in an attempt to gain a confession.
- At times they are vague or provide hope that the suspect can get a deal before their friends.
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- Often, they shut down the suspect and would not allow them to provide the information the police needed (Snook et al., 2012).

### Solutions to the Problem
- Law enforcement agencies should provide continuing education and training throughout police officers’ careers, based on the latest research about effective interviewing
- Law enforcement agencies should provide additional training for police officers to better recognize when they are being deceived (using research-based techniques)
- Police officers should increase their knowledge about effective interviewing strategies and why they work

### References