**Interrogation Key Terms\***

Admission – a statement or acknowledgement of facts by a person that tends to incriminate that person, but which is not sufficient itself to establish guilt of a crime

Affidavit – a written statement containing allegations that is confirmed by oath that is then used as evidence in court

Citation – document issued by a police officer, most often for a misdemeanor or other minor criminal matter such as jaywalking, littering, or a minor traffic offense

Confession – a statement or acknowledgement of facts by a person establishing that person’s guilt of all elements of a crime

Elicit – to draw out or entice

Indictment – a formal charge imposed by the grand jury, which is a group of citizens convened by the court. Its function is to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to charge a person with a crime and to bring him or her to trial. The grand jury conducts its proceedings in secret and has broad investigative powers

Information – a written document filed by a prosecutor (often the district or prosecuting attorney) alleging that the defendant committed a crime. The information may be based upon a criminal complaint, which is a petition to the prosecutor requesting that criminal charges be initiated

Interrogation – the questioning of a person that has been stopped or arrested and who is suspected of criminal activity

Interview – the questioning of a subject who is not suspected of criminal activity at the time of the encounter. A person being interviewed may become a suspect. Interviews are used as a tool to prepare for interrogation

Nolo contendere – translates to "I do not contest (the charge)." A guilty plea that in turn avoids automatic civil liability

Probable Cause – facts sufficient to support a reasonable belief that criminal activity is probably taking place or knowledge of circumstances indicating a fair probability that evidence of crime will be found

Persuade – to influence or gain over by argument or advice

Statement – a broad term meaning simply an oral or written declaration or assertion

Suspect – the person that the police officer has reasonable cause to believe committed a specific crime

Victim – the person who is the subject of an incident, crime, or other harm caused against them

Witness – someone who personally sees, hears, or otherwise observes something relating to the incident under investigation