**Evidence: Individual or Class Discussion Activity Key**

*Note: This assessment correlates to the Evidence: Individual or Class Discussion Activity computer-based presentation.*

1. To individualize evidence, the pieces of the item must match like a jigsaw puzzle. If the pieces of T-shirt fit exactly to the torn shirt, then this is individualized evidence. However, pieces of T-shirt might be stretched and very ragged, so it would be hard to put the pieces back together again (then it would be considered class evidence). Fiber analysis would show a match of fiber type and/or dye, which is more class evidence.
2. Very small glass fragments would not fit together well, some fragments would probably not be found at all. This would make it more difficult to put the pieces together and match to the rest of the bottle; so this is class evidence. Glass analysis in the laboratory would show the glass pieces and bottle as being made of the same material, but again this is class evidence, not individual.
3. Since this torn piece of paper could probably be fit to the original sheet of paper, the paper/note would be considered individual evidence.
4. The handwriting could only be matched enough to be circumstantial (class) evidence, even with handwriting analysis comparing the handwriting to that of the suspect. This would also be true of any ink chemical analysis. Fingerprints, if they can be lifted off the paper, would be considered individual evidence because they can be uniquely matched to an individual.
5. The torn aluminum from the soda can top probably matched the torn aluminum tab (like jigsaw pieces), and that is considered individual evidence. Matching only the metal type, brand, etc. would be considered class evidence.
6. Torn matches are probably considered class evidence. Cardboard does not normally tear in such a way that the pieces can be matched. Laboratory examination may show similarities in the cardboard and match chemicals, but this would also be considered class evidence.
7. If a forensic scientist test fired the gun and compared the striations on the fired bullet to the striations on the murder scene bullets, with a positive match, then this would be considered individual evidence.
8. A match between the brand and chemical makeup of the duct tape samples from the crime scene and the garage would only be considered class evidence. Once again, only if the torn edges fit together would this be considered individual evidence.
9. Just two different sections of the newspaper are not enough of a match to be individual evidence. The two sections could have come from many different newspapers out of the thousands sold each day.
10. The gloves cannot be individualized to the box, because there is no unique match. There could only be a match with the composition and construction of the glove and the box of the suspect’s gloves. This would be class evidence.