The writing assignment in this class will consist of analyzing an “evidence collection” guidebook and recommending updates. The guidebooks are created for law enforcement professionals and distributed by the National Criminal Justice Review Service. The guidebooks accepted for this assignment are listed as follows:

- Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for Law Enforcement
- Guide for Explosion and Bombing Scene Investigation
- Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator
- Fire and Arson Scene Evidence: A Guide for Public Safety Personnel

Each guidebook is available in the course Doc Sharing section.

**Topic Selection and Group Assignments**

By the conclusion of Module 1, students should email the instructor their preferred three (3) choices from the guidebook list above. Based on this information, the instructor will assign students to groups of no more than three members. Any student who does not email a preferred list by the due date will be placed in a group at the instructor’s discretion.

The instructor will post an announcement by Tuesday of Module 2 listing the group assignments. Each group will be designated by a number along with the title of the assigned guidebook. For example:

Group 1: John Smith, Bob Jones, Mary Brown (Guide for Explosion and Bombing Scene Investigation)

After the instructor provides students with a list of groups, it is the responsibility of students to contact each other and determine how communication will proceed in order to complete the project. It is recommended that students make initial contact via the course email system. Students are also encouraged to use an online collaboration tool such as Google Docs (http://docs.google.com) for ease of document revision between group members.

**Saint Leo Core Value Integration**

Students will demonstrate the core value of Community by working in groups toward the common goal of successfully completing the assignment. Moreover, the assignment simulates a “real world” task that would benefit the forensic science/criminal justice community specifically and society (as an association of local communities) in general.

**Assignment Details**

Each group will review the selected guidebook and identify the areas that require revision. As part of this process, students must research more recent collection techniques and analysis methods utilized in the field. The submitted document must contain the following:

1. Explanation of what topics need to be updated in the guidebook.
2. Explanation of why the topics need to be updated and how this revision will affect the forensic science/criminal justice community as it relates to evidence collection and preservation.
3. Explanation of how specifically the group would update those topics (i.e., how you would revise the text to be relevant regarding current evidence collection techniques).

The paper should be written in narrative form with a logical flow. In other words, do not simply list a topic from the guidebook and follow it with comments regarding that topic. An example of a previous student’s work is available in the course Doc Sharing section for your reference.
Formatting
You must follow APA style formatting. The paper should be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font and include a page header (shortened topic name and page number).

This assignment must reference a minimum of one (1) scholarly journal source and one (1) textbook source. You may also use sources from reputable websites such as www.crime-scene-investigator.net, www.forensicmag.com, and www.fbi.gov. Contact your instructor if you have questions as to whether or not a website is reputable for the purposes of this assignment.

You should properly cite these sources, both in the body of the paper and on a separate "References" page. APA regulations require a bibliography/reference page including all sources referenced in the paper as well as in-text citations. Recall that if you list a reference, it should be utilized within research work; if not, it can be considered plagiarism.

Submission
The assignment is due no later than Sunday, 11:59 PM EST/EDT of Module 6. A member from each group is responsible for (1) submitting the paper to the Dropbox and (2) attaching it to a post to the "Research Project" discussion board in Module 6. The title of the post should include the group number, and the message should include the names of all group members and the title of the reviewed guidebook.

Grading
The research assignment is worth 16% of the final course grade and is based on the criteria below.

Exceptional: Performance is outstanding; significantly above the usual expectations.
Proficient: Skills and standards are at the level of expectation.
Basic: Skills and standards are acceptable but improvements are needed to meet expectations well.
Novice: Performance is weak; the skills or standards are not sufficiently demonstrated at this time.
Null: This criterion is missing or not in evidence.

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<td>Null</td>
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<td>The paper extensively develops the issue and ideas are presented in a clear, concise manner</td>
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<td>Shows depth and understanding of the subject matter with appropriate analysis of proper evidence collection and preservation guidelines and their effect on the Forensic Science and Criminal Justice community</td>
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<td>Examines the technological and scientific advancements in the respected disciplines, applying new methodologies to existing principles with available research</td>
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<td>Meets acceptable college level standards with respect to form and substance; meets APA style requirements</td>
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<td>Free of typographical errors; typed in a double-spaced format with bibliographic references; free of plagiarism</td>
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