



# THE SCHEME OF DESCRIBING THE APPEARANCE OF THE CRIMINAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE METHOD OF VERBAL PORTRAIT

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### **Abstract**

Identification of criminals through oral descriptions is a critical aspect of criminal investigations. This article provides a systematic scheme for constructing a verbal portrait of a suspect, focusing on various elements that contribute to an accurate and comprehensive description. The method emphasizes the importance of detail, clarity, and organization in verbal images, which can significantly enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts in apprehending suspects.

# **Keywords**











Criminal identification, oral portrait, suspect description, forensic psychology, law enforcement agencies, eyewitness testimony, criminal profiling.

The ability to accurately describe a suspect's appearance is vital for criminal investigations. Eyewitness accounts often serve as the basis for police sketches and subsequent identification processes. However, the reliability of these descriptions can vary significantly depending on several factors, including the witness' observation skills and the method used to gather information. This article outlines a structured scheme for creating an oral portrait of a criminal that can help law enforcement agencies develop effective strategies for suspect identification.

## Methodology

### 1.Initial Interview

The process begins with an initial eyewitness interview. This interview should be conducted in a quiet environment to minimize distractions. The interviewer should use open-ended questions to encourage the witness to provide a detailed account of the suspect's appearance.

# 2. Categorization of physical attributes

The verbal portrait should be organized into different categories, each focusing on specific physical attributes. The following categories are recommended:

- Features of the face:
- face shape (for example, oval, round, square)
- Eye color and shape
- the shape and size of the nose
- Characteristics of the mouth and teeth
- Distinctive marks (e.g. scars, tattoos)











- Hair Characteristics:
- Color (e.g. blonde, brown, black, red)
- Length (e.g. short, medium, long)
- Style (e.g. straight, curly, bald)
- Body structure:
- Height (e.g. short, medium, tall)
- Builder (e.g. slender, athletic, heavy)
- Age assessment
- Clothing and Accessories:
- Type of clothing (e.g. casual, formal, sportswear)
- Colors and patterns
- Accessories (e.g. glasses, hats, jewelry)
- 3. Use descriptive language

Encourage the witness to use descriptive language that conveys not only physical attributes, but also the behavior and behavior of the suspect. This may include:

- Posture and movement: describing how the suspect carried herself, gait, and any noticeable mannerisms.
- Expressions and gestures : Observations about the suspect's facial expressions or hand movements during the meeting.
  - 4. Verification and clarification

After the initial verbal portrait is built, it must be reviewed and improved. The interviewer should ask clarifying questions to ensure accuracy and completeness. This







step is crucial because it helps to eliminate ambiguities and increases the reliability of the description.

### Discussion

The effectiveness of a verbal portrait largely depends on the accuracy and details provided by an eyewitness. Research in the field of forensic psychology shows that using structured methods, such as what is outlined in this article, can improve the quality of eyewitness testimony. In addition, the inclusion of technology, such as computer-aided design for sketching, can complement oral descriptions and provide law enforcement with a more reliable tool for suspect identification.

The scheme of describing the appearance of a criminal using verbal portraiture is a valuable method in criminal investigations. By emphasizing a structured approach to collecting and organizing information, law enforcement agencies can improve the accuracy of suspicious descriptions, ultimately helping to apprehend criminals. Future research should focus on improving these methods and exploring the integration of technological advances to further enhance the reliability of eyewitness accounts.

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