

## Report Writing

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**Admissible evidence:** evidence that is acceptable in a court of law, based on specific rules and procedures. In report writing, it is important to include only admissible evidence to support findings and conclusions.

**Analysis:** the process of examining and interpreting data to draw conclusions. In report writing, analysis involves explaining the significance of the findings and connecting them to the overall investigation.

**Authentication:** the process of verifying the integrity and origin of digital evidence. In report writing, it is important to describe the steps taken to authenticate the evidence and ensure its reliability.

**Chain of custody:** the chronological documentation or paper trail, showing the seizure, custody, control, transfer, analysis, and disposition of physical or electronic evidence. A clear chain of custody is crucial in report writing to establish the authenticity and reliability of the evidence.

**Control testing:** a type of testing used in digital forensics to ensure that the tools and procedures used in the investigation are working correctly. In report writing, control testing helps establish the validity and reliability of the results.

**Data acquisition:** the process of collecting and preserving digital evidence. In report writing, it is important to describe the methods and tools used for data acquisition and the steps taken to ensure the integrity of the evidence.

**Digital forensics:** the process of uncovering and interpreting electronic data for use in a legal context. Report writing is a key component of digital forensics, as it documents the findings and conclusions of the investigation.

**Evidence integrity:** the assurance that digital evidence has not been altered or tampered with since its collection. In report writing, it is important to describe the measures taken to maintain evidence integrity and ensure the reliability of the results.

**Examination:** the process of searching for and identifying digital evidence. In report writing, examination involves describing the methods and tools used for the search and the findings uncovered.

**Hashing:** a mathematical function that maps data of arbitrary size to a fixed size. Hashing is used in digital forensics to verify the integrity of data and ensure that it has not been altered. In report writing, it is important to describe the hashing process and the results.

**Imaging:** the process of creating a bit-for-bit copy of a digital device. Imaging is used in digital forensics to preserve the integrity of the original evidence and to allow for further analysis. In report writing, it is important to describe the imaging process and the tools used.

**Incident response:** the process of responding to and managing a security breach or cyber attack. Report writing is an important part of incident response, as it documents the actions taken to contain and mitigate the incident.

**Integrity:** the assurance that digital evidence has not been altered or tampered with since its collection. In report writing, it is important to describe the measures taken to maintain integrity and ensure the reliability of the evidence.

**Interpretation:** the process of explaining the significance of digital evidence and drawing conclusions. In report writing, interpretation involves connecting the findings to the overall investigation and explaining their relevance.

**Malware:** software designed to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorized access to a computer system. In report writing, it is important to describe the malware found, its behavior, and the impact on the system.

**Non-repudiation:** the ability to ensure that a sender cannot deny sending a message, and that a receiver cannot deny receiving a message. Non-repudiation is important in digital forensics to ensure the authenticity of electronic communications.

**Normalization:** the process of organizing and cleaning data to make it consistent and usable. In report writing, normalization helps to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data presented.

**Preservation:** the process of protecting and maintaining the integrity of digital evidence. In report writing, it is important to describe the steps taken to preserve the evidence and ensure its admissibility in court.

**Report:** a written document that summarizes the findings and conclusions of a digital forensics investigation. A well-written report is crucial in report writing, as it provides a clear and concise summary of the investigation for stakeholders and legal professionals.

**Report writing standards:** guidelines for writing clear, concise, and professional reports in digital forensics. Report writing standards ensure that reports are consistent, accurate, and reliable, and help to establish the credibility of the investigator.

**Root cause analysis:** the process of identifying the underlying causes of an incident or problem. In report writing, root cause analysis helps to explain the context and significance of the findings and recommendations.

**Search terms:** keywords or phrases used to search for relevant data in a digital investigation. In report writing, it is important to document the search terms used and the results found.

**Tools:** software and hardware used in digital forensics to collect, analyze, and interpret data. In report writing, it is important to describe the tools used, their capabilities, and the results obtained.

**Validation:** the process of verifying that a digital forensics tool or procedure is working correctly. In report writing, validation helps to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the results.

**Visualization:** the process of presenting data in a graphical or visual format to aid in understanding and interpretation. In report writing, visualization can be used to highlight trends, patterns, and relationships in the data.

**Volatility:** the characteristic of digital evidence that can change or disappear over time. In report writing, it is important to describe the volatility of the evidence and the measures taken to preserve it.

**Wordlist:** a list of words used in a digital investigation to search for relevant data. In report writing, it is important to document the wordlist used and the results found.