Name: Date: Period:

Forensics I Ms. Nigro

**Individual vs. Class Evidence**

What is the difference between individualized evidence and just class evidence?

What is the value of class evidence?

For the following scenarios, state whether the evidence can be individualized to a unique sourceor if it is simply class evidence. Briefly explain your reasoning.

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| **Scenario** | **Class or Individual** | **Explain** |
| 1. A torn t-shirt was found in the back seat of a suspect’s car. Two pieces of torn cloth were found at the scene of the crime. |  |  |
| 1. Would small glass fragments be considered class evidence or individual evidence that can be uniquely associated with a broken bottle? |  |  |
| 1. A large piece of broken bottle was found at the scene of a crime. Part of a broken bottle was found with a suspect. Can the top be uniquely associated (individualized) with the bottom? Explain. |  |  |
| 1. A note was found at a crime scene at a bank. A notepad with a similar type of paper was found in the desk of a suspect. Can the note be traced to the pad? Can the handwriting be associated with the person? Can fingerprints on the note be individualized to a person? |  |  |
| 1. A soda can was found at the scene of a crime. Investigators tried to determine if one of several tabs found in the suspect’s garage could be uniquely associated (individualized) with the can. |  |  |
| 1. A shoe print was found at the scene of a hit-and-run automobile accident. How can a suspect’s shoe be individualized to match a print? |  |  |
| 1. Section A of a newspaper was found at a crime scene. Section B was found in the suspect’s possession. Could the two sections be individualized to each other? |  |  |
| 1. Some powder was found in a plastic bag in the suspect’s pocket. Some similar powder was found on the victim. Can the first powder be individualized to the second powder? If the two powders were shown to be chemically identical, does that prove that they came from the same source? |  |  |
| 1. If a piece of paper was cut into 4 pieces, could the pieces be uniquely associated to each other? |  |  |
| 1. If a piece of paper was torn into 4 pieces, could the pieces be uniquely associated to each other? |  |  |
| 1. A match was found at a suspicious house fire. A suspect was found carrying a book of matches, several of which were missing. Is the single match class or individual evidence? |  |  |
| 1. A piece of duct tape was taken from a victim of a breaking and entering. A roll of the same brand of duct tape was found at the suspect’s home. Would this be considered class or individual evidence? |  |  |
| 1. A pair of latex gloves was found at the scene of a robbery. A box of the same brand of gloves was found at the suspect’s home. Can the glove be individualized to the box? |  |  |
| 1. Many bullets were recovered from a crime scene. Can they be linked to the same gun? |  |  |
| 1. A fiber from a sweater was found stuck to the front plate of a car in a hit-and run. A suspect is found wearing pants made from the same fabric. Is this class or individual evidence? |  |  |