Interviews and Interrogations

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During investigations and criminal affairs, it becomes difficult to get information from suspects. There are various types of criminal minds which make it tough to determine the method of engaging every individual in obtaining necessary information. That is the reason why interrogations and interviewing techniques are critical for investigators. Various techniques must be employed in getting suspects to open up. Psychology must be used in engaging suspects as it is the most determining factor in interviews or interrogations.

I believe that the Reid method is the best interrogation method for having a suspect writes a statement after an interview or after the completion of an interrogation. Reid technique is the most used interrogation tactic in the United States. It involves interviewing and interrogating a suspect. The method involves three elements which include factual analysis, interviewing and interrogation. The Factual analysis involves an inductive approach where an evaluation is done on an individual in regards to specific observations relating to the crime. The investigation requires crime scene analysis, as well as the information, learned about the suspect. Interviewing requires behavior analysis interview which involves standard investigative questions and the questions structured to provoke behavior to elicit behavior symptoms of truth or deception from the interviewed person. Lastly, the interrogation is done when the investigator is confident that the suspect has been involved in the issue that is being investigated. The investigator confronts the suspect positively and places moral blame on someone else outside of the situation. It is at this stage that the suspect will stop denying and confess. It is after the confession that the suspects put the confession in writing a statement. ("INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES," n.d.)

The second most preferred method is the Peace method. It is mostly used in England where there is less confrontational interview as well as an interrogation method. The technique involves various steps in guiding the interrogation. The first step is the preparation and planning where interviewers write a written plan on issues like objectives, and points that will prove the offense. The next step is to engage and explains which interviewers use in engaging suspects by using active listening by establishing a rapport. The interviewers use appropriate questions as well as active listening in obtaining the suspect’s accounts of events. The closure stage is where the interviewer summarizes events and gives the suspect a chance to make a clarification or ask questions. Lastly, the interviewer should evaluate the interview and determine whether the suspect fits with the investigation. ( Gordon, 2011 p.41-42)

In regards to my research, tape recording and video-recording are necessary during interrogation as it preserves details of what is said. Video-recording is the best method as it represents the environment in the interview room during the interrogation in an accurate manner. In a situation where a statement has been made by the suspect, the defense counsel will look for any details that can be pointed to as an oppressive environment or conduct by the interviewer. The investigator/interviewer should demonstrate sensitivity in issues to maintaining an environment of safety and security. In a situation where the suspect’s written statement conflicts with the interview the suspect cannot claim that he/she confessed because she felt oppressed or threatened by the interviewer and with the observation of the court proceeding, they can view the environment of the courtroom and the verbal and non-verbal behavior of the suspect. (Walters, 2003 p.97)

During interrogations, the interviewers may tend to commit various pitfalls that may lead to wrong results or acquiring false confessions. One of the pitfalls made during investigations is making them longer. Interrogations ate designed in a manner that they are stressful and unpleasant. Whenever they become longer, it becomes more stressful for the suspect, and this ma male the suspect acquire the p[reception that there is no other choice other than complying with the detectives wished because he may be worn down, fatigued and he decides to give a false confession just to escape the intolerably stressful experience. An instance is when a suspect has been interrogated for five hours by two investigators, and he realizes that he will never escape the situation unless he confesses false fully. Another pitfall that interrogators find themselves in is when they fail to create a rapport and become friendly with the suspect. Evidence-based interrogation techniques help in motivating guilty suspects to confess and minimizing false confession. However, when a rapport is built between the investigators and the suspect, there are more possibilities of getting a more true confession and fewer false confessions. (Wisnewski, 2009 p.76)

**References**

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