LSM1306 CA Paper Sem1 AY2019/20

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Q4. DNA: The silver bullet for crime scene investigation?

Since human found out that DNA can be use to identify individuals and can thus provide another way of crime investigation, DNA evidence is used more and more frequently in recent years. In some cases, DNA evidence provides an important clue to the crime scene. However, in other cases, DNA evidence misleads the investigation and put innocent people into jail. The use of DNA in crime investigation is an issue to debate and makes people doubt about the reliability of DNA evidence.

In 2012, a vagrant was accused of murdering a regal. The police find the vagrant’s DNA left in the crime scene and thought that he was the suspect. But when the regal was murdered, the vagrant was in the hospital undergoing a treatment. His DNA was actually transferred by the medical staff to the crime scene. From this case, we can know that DNA evidence can be easy to transfer, and can cause mistakes in crime investigation. Moreover, if a criminal has a background of DNA knowledge and planned carefully, he/she can even frame other innocents into a crime offence. For example, sexual assault often use semen and laceration as reference to judge whether the male is guilty. But in some cases, the actual situation is the woman agrees to the man and deceives him, so that she can get compensation. DNA with inappropriate uses can jeopardize people’s fame and right, or even sentenced them to death. That is why DNA is not reliable enough to be the direct evidence. But with the correct way to use it, DNA can shed light on crime investigation.

In Golden State Killer Case, the police had been finding the murderer for forty years, but was unable to find the killer. Thanks to the DNA the murderer left in the crime scene and the database of DNA samples, the police found the murderer’s relative and finally caught the cruel killer. Without the DNA evidence in this case, the police was impossible to find the true criminal. This case shows that although DNA cannot be a direct proof, it can still give directions to the investigation. DNA should be used to support other evidence rather than simply make a conclusion base on it.

In conclusion, DNA is not reliable enough to directly show who commit the crime, but it can uses as supported guide to find other evidence to the crime. Also, people who are investigating the crime scene or making judgements should have enough knowledge on DNA, or they can be misled or tricked by the criminal, end up put innocent people to jail and give them penalties. Overall, DNA is just a tool to help investigation, the most important is how the forensic scientist use it.

(455 words)

Draft

1. Simply describe why DNA can be useful and also can jeopardize human right.
2. Describe how DNA may be misleading in the crime scene, and even can use to frame someone.

E.g. 仙人跳、偽造證據

1. Reverse, show examples that DNA gives clue to criminal.
2. Summary, DNA can only be a hint, need to have other evidence that is enough to show someone is guilty.