

The PEACE Model of Investigation Interviews

The PEACE Model was developed in the early 90s as a collaborative effort between law enforcement and psychologists in England and Wales. It was conceived as a way to reduce the number of false confessions that were resulting from an overly aggressive style of interviewing.

PEACE stands for Preparation & Planning, Engage & Explain, Account, Closure and Evaluation.



Preparation & Planning

Before beginning any investigation interview, ensure you have deep knowledge of the case.

- Create a schedule of topics you will need to cover
- Identify the purpose, aims and objectives of the interview.
- Decide what needs to be proven or clarified, what evidence is available and where it is and how to get any other evidence needed.



Engage & Explain

Build rapport with the interview subject by introducing yourself and anyone else present and explain the purpose of the interview.

Engage the interview subject in conversation to set a relaxed and non-confrontational tone that makes the subject feel comfortable and willing to communicate.



Account

This is the meat of the interview, where you find out what happened by asking your interview subject to recall the event in full detail.

You can encourage the subject's recollection using one or both of these two methods: cognitive approach and conversation management.

Cognitive Approach

Ask the subject to describe the event. Don't interrupt or ask leading questions, but use pauses to encourage the subject to fill in gaps. Then, ask them to recall the event again, but in reverse order or from a different perspective.

Conversation Management

Ask the subject to tell you what happened. Then divide the story into sections and ask for more detail about each section. Probe and summarize each segment to fill in all the gaps. Ask the subject to clarify any contradictory information.



Closure

Summarize the main points of the subject's account and allow them to correct errors or provide additional information to clarify any inconsistencies.

Answer questions and address any concerns they may have. Thank the subject and explain the next steps.



Evaluation

Evaluate each interview and the information provided. Take this opportunity to reflect on your performance and identify areas where you need to improve.

- Did you achieve your objectives?
- Were you successful in building rapport?
- Do you need to conduct more interviews or make other inquiries?