



## First Responders Academy - Law Enforcement Academy

### **Course Description: Analysis of the Written Statement: Learning the "Cheat Code" for Detecting Deception in Written Statements** **Understanding, Interpreting, and Extracting Meaning from Statements in an Investigative Context**

Analysis of the Written Statement is a comprehensive course designed to equip students with the conceptual foundations, practical techniques, and critical thinking skills needed to interpret, evaluate, and extract actionable insights from a wide range of statements. This course spans applications for the nuanced art of linguistic and investigative statement analysis used in law enforcement.

Students will explore both the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of statement analysis. Throughout the course, learners will develop proficiency in identifying patterns, inconsistencies, and hidden meanings in statements—be they explanations in a written statement, or words in a testimony—enabling better decision-making, fraud detection, and enhanced communication.

**Instructor: Dr. Anita Seamens**

#### **Course Objective(s):**

- Understand the fundamental principles and objectives of statement analysis in various contexts.
- Master techniques for detecting deception, bias, and underlying messages in written or spoken statements.
- Apply tools and frameworks to extract relevant information and draw defensible conclusions from narratives.
- Utilize information gathered from statements to effectively interrogate a suspect and obtain a confession.

#### **Course Cost**

Enrollment Only: Two (2) Eight (8) Hour Days, \$50.00, Minimal 10 Students and Maximum of 40 Students

**Upon Completion** Student will receive a course completion certificate for 16 hours of training. The 16 hours will be reported to TCOLE as part of your training record. Students must attend all 16 hours of training to have training reported to TCOLE training record.

**To Sign-Up for the Course** Please email [sac-lea@alamo.edu](mailto:sac-lea@alamo.edu)

Payment due day of the class in credit card, debit card, cash (exact amount) or cashier check, personal check, agency check, money order made payable to: **SAC First Responders Academy**

#### **Training Dates and Location**

First Responders Academy, 15775 IH 35 South, Atascosa, TX 78002 (exit 139 Hwy 35 S) Room 101

Monday & Tuesday, November 3 & 4, 2025, Time: 8 am to 5 pm – 1 hour for lunch

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## Course Overview

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## Learning Objectives

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## Course Structure and Content

The course is structured into thematic modules that blend theoretical foundations with practical exercises, case studies, and real-world applications.

## Module 1: Statement Analysis Fundamentals and Obtaining Statements

- Defining statement analysis: scope and significance
- Best Practices
- Contamination Factors
- Ethics and confidentiality in statement analysis

## Module 2: Interview Techniques and Question Types

- Preparation, rapport building, clear introductions, and strategic questioning
- Avoid leading, compound, unclear, or loophole types
- Open-ended questions elicit detailed responses, while indicator questions test reactions
- Verification and catch-all questions ensure completeness, and interviews should end positively with a critique for improvement

## Module 3: Analyzing the Statement for Content and Language

- Analysis focuses on the event's central portion
- Unique sensory and spatial details and emotion
- Indicators of deception, such as equivocation and negation
- Extraneous information, though not answering questions directly, must be explored for underlying motives.
- Time references, verb tense consistency, noun and pronoun usage.
- Adverb intensity

## Module 4: Verbal and Non-Verbal Indicators of Deception

- Introduction to linguistic analysis: language, structure, and context
- Deceptive statements often contain equivocations (vague commitments) and negations (denials or uncertainty).
- Statement validity assessment and criteria-based content analysis, is the suspect trying to CONVEY or CONVINCe?
- Indicators of truthfulness and deception: verbal and non-verbal cues
- Case studies: analyzing witness statements and confessions

## Module 5: Linguistic Elements in Statement Analysis

- Verbs indicate action and tense consistency; changes may signal deception
- Communication verbs and social events can camouflage true actions
- Passive voice and verb quality affect interpretation

## Module 5: Conclusion and Future Trends

- The role of technology: AI, data analytics, and forensic tools
- Global standards and best practices in statement analysis
- Current issues: ethics, privacy, and cross-cultural considerations
- Future directions in statement analysis research and practice

## Target Audience

This course is ideal for:

- Law enforcement officers, investigators, and legal professionals involved in statement analysis as part of their work

## Teaching Methodology

The course is delivered using a blend of lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, and hands-on exercises. Real-world cases and practical scenarios are emphasized to ensure that students can directly apply learned skills to their specific fields. Students are encouraged to engage critically, pose questions, and collaborate in teams to enhance their analytical capabilities.

## Assessment and Evaluation

- Quizzes and assignments to test theoretical understanding
- Case study analyses and group projects
- Final project involving a comprehensive analysis of a provided statement or set of statements

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and evaluate inconsistencies, errors, or deception in both numbers and narratives
- Apply advanced methods to detect and prevent fraud or misrepresentation
- Communicate complex analytical findings clearly and effectively in both written and verbal formats
- Demonstrate ethical judgment and professional responsibility in conducting statement analysis

## Recommended Readings

- Textbook: Statement Analysis: What Do People Really Say? by Mark McClish
- Relevant academic journal articles and case studies (to be provided by instructor)

## Conclusion

Statement Analysis is a multidisciplinary course connecting the science of numbers with the art of language. Dissecting the truthfulness of a statement in an interview will prepare the student to conduct a meaningful interrogation of a person suspected of a criminal offense. This will also arm students with the tools, frameworks, and ethical foundation to pursue the truth. Through rigorous study, hands-on practice, and open-minded inquiry, students will emerge as skilled analysts, capable of making impactful decisions and contributions in their chosen fields.