

Brayan Morocho  
FRSC 201 Introduction to Forensic Science  
Ms. Austin  
August 30, 2024

**Give your essay an appropriate title**

*(Your essay must have at least 500 words/ 4-6 paragraphs minimum- delete this line when ready to submit)*

Add text to paragraph 1, write your introduction, (Use [APA in text Citations](#).) *Delete this line when ready to submit*

During the 20th century criminology and forensics science was still in development with little to no new techniques discovered, which was also the time where blood typing was established. Ironically between this time is when Helle Crafts a 39 year old Pan American flight attendant was presumed missing and later pronounced dead. As the case unraveled from a missing persons report, many looked at Richards Crafts for answers, and many had feared the worst. Though there wasn't much evidence to connect Richard to the disappearance of Helle at first, many had already pieced the worst due to many problems with the couple's relationship and marriage. With the Crafts case being a significant point in history for the development of the idea that a body isn't always needed to pinpoint a murder and helped pave a way for the idea that a Forensics team in criminal investigations is always needed.

Throughout the ongoing investigation many people pointed the finger towards Richard Craft due to there being a problem within the couple's marriage. Close friends and family remember her explaining how she knew Richard had a mistress and how she was looking for a divorce. Though this didn't tie Richard to the murder, people saw this as a motive for Richard to get rid of Helle, and try to start a new life where he was in control with no financial burden of a divorce. According to an article Kevin McMurray “Helle had found out Richard, then 49, was a serial philanderer. Apparently, she had confronted him with evidence of his infidelity and demanded a divorce. A breakup of their marriage would financially cost him dearly” (McMurray, 2009). This explains how a situation between a financial burden and divorce gave Richard Craft a motive to kill his wife, as a reason to maintain control. Though this wasn't enough to show that there was any foul play in the disappearance of Helle, the video explained how Richard used every excuse to stop being served divorce papers, and how he passed numerous lie detector tests.

As the case continued to progress many witnesses like the snow plower, home nanny, and friends came out with helping details of Helle's life and how she was living. But the testimony of her friends and coworkers were the most significant in opening up the case and further developing it to the gruesome murder. According to Thompson, Helle Craft told her friends "If something happens to me, don't assume it was an accident" (Thompson, 2017). Helle's concerned friends remembering this told investigators this, pushing for a deeper investigation on Richard Craft, and examination of the residence. Due to Helle's friends it pushed investigators to look deeper and try to connect other parts of Richards' life to the case. In the video it explains how Helle's concerned friends were the ones to open a missing persons case and also emphasized how Richard gave them no answers, and even lied to them. This shows how Richard would become a suspect even after passing a lie detector test and how he didn't put too much care in his wife's disappearance. Another crucial testimony that helped make a case was the snow plower's description of a man who fit Richard using a wood chipper on the night of Helle's death. According to an article "On the night of November 18, hours after Helle had been last seen, Hine was plowing the roads during the snowstorm when he noticed a rental truck, with a woodchipper attached, parked close to the shore of Lake Zoar" (*Connecticut Man Who Put Wife in Wood Chipper Released From Prison 20 Years Early*, 2020). This shows how this and with the connection of Richard renting a wood chipper would make Richard a prime suspect for the disappearance of his wife.

The Crafts case was also groundbreaking due to the lack of a body and the extensive use of forensic science to prove both the murderer and identify Helle's body. This case highlighted the evolving capabilities of forensic investigation in solving complex crimes with little evidence connecting someone to Helle's disappearance. Forensics Science changed the scope of the case and helped discover major evidence through various techniques and witness testimony. With them going to the lake and sifting through wood for various hours in the cold weather looking for a clue and the body. Forensics Science also helped detectives by connecting Helle's bones, teeth, and hair to the ones found near the lake, and later connecting them to Richard's purchases. Overall forensic science was the main key used to pinpoint Richards connection to the case and help push towards a conviction.

In conclusion the Crafts case demonstrated the growing importance of forensic science in criminal investigations, proving that even without a body, the evidence found could lead to a conviction. This case set a path for future investigations and highlighted the power of forensic science in solving complex investigations. The case was a very gruesome reality to how society works and how forensics can play a major role in discovering and progressing a case. The Crafts case shows how forensics is needed in many aspects and how their techniques developed over time, to the point where in modern day it is used everywhere.

### References

*Connecticut man who put wife in wood chipper released from prison 20 years early.* (2020, February 1).

Boston.com. Retrieved August 30, 2024, from

<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2020/02/01/richard-crafts-released-early-1986-connecticut-woodchipper-murder/>

McMurray, K. (2009, November 18). *23 years ago, Richard Crafts was more willing to part with his wife than his money.* NewsTimes. Retrieved August 30, 2024, from

<https://www.newstimes.com/local/article/23-years-ago-richard-crafts-was-more-willing-to-256633.php>

Thompson, E. G. (2017, December 22). *The Wood Chipper Murder - Helle Crafts • Morbidology.* Morbidology.

Retrieved August 30, 2024, from <https://morbidology.com/the-wood-chipper-murder-helle-crafts/>

References (in APA format)

#### **AI Policy and Disclosure**

**\*\*DO NOT DELETE ANY PORTION OF THIS BOX UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES\*\***

**Failure to fill out all relevant portions of this disclosure will result in a grade of missing and/or ZERO**

1. **You are allowed to use Open AI ChatGPT or similar software as a tool to help you perform research in order to help you craft your essay.** Learning to use AI is an emerging skill, however be aware of the the limits of ChatGPT and its analogs:
  - a. If you provide minimum effort prompts, you will get low quality results. You will need to refine your prompts in order to get good outcomes. This will take work. Click on the article "[How to write the best ChatGPT prompts](#)" for guidance.

- b. **DO NOT TRUST ANYTHING IT SAYS.** If it gives you a number or fact, assume it's wrong unless you either know the answer or can check with another source. You will be responsible for any errors or omissions provided by the tool. It works best for topics you understand well.
- c. Be thoughtful about when this tool is useful. Don't use it if it isn't appropriate for the case or circumstance.
2. AI is a tool, but one that you need to acknowledge using. Fill in the space below explaining what you used AI for and what prompts you used to get the results. Failure to do so is in violation of academic honesty policies. You may add additional lines for additional prompts utilized.
- a. I fully understand that it is my responsibility to authentically write my essay using my own words and thoughts and to refine it using all of the resources available.
- b. I also understand that ChatGPT can only be used to perform preliminary and additional research.
- c. Disclosure- I **DID NOT** use ChatGPT or similar software to research information in order to help me write my essay. *If you DID use ChatGPT or similar software, you must fill out the remaining sections below. If you DID NOT use ChatGPT or similar software to help you write your essay, you may skip down to **Essay Self Assessment**.*

- i. First I ran this prompt though AI  and used to help me craft my essay in this way: .
- ii. Then I ran this prompt though AI  and used it to help me craft my essay in this way: .
- iii. Then I ran this prompt though AI  and used it to help me craft my essay in this way: .
- iv. Finally, I ran this prompt though AI  and used it to help me craft my essay in this way: .
- v. Add additional lines as necessary.

3. **Essay Self-Assessment:** All students must then run their essay through [GPTZero](#) and [Writer AI Content Detector](#). Your essay scores should approach 100% written by a Human. Ms. Austin will reject any essay with scores below 80%.
- a. Read through your essay. If your essay does not make sense to you and lacks cohesion and flow, it will NOT make sense to Ms. Austin and will be rejected.
- i. Does your essay address the task(s) and/or writing prompt(s)? **YES** Explain:
- ii. Is it cohesive and does it flow? **YES** Explain:
- iii. Are you proud of what you wrote? **YES**. Explain:
- iv. Does this essay exemplify your BEST work? **YES** Explain:

b. I ran my essay through GPTZero and it stated that my essay is most likely to be written by (a)

**Human** ▾. My essay received a:

- i. Human generated a probability breakdown of **score** of **90-95%** ▾.
- ii. AI generated a probability breakdown of **score** of **less than 50%** ▾.
- iii. Mixed generated a probability breakdown of **score** of **less than 50%** ▾.



iv. I have attached a screenshot as proof of my results.

c. Then I ran my essay through [Writer AI Content Detector](#), my score was **80-100** ▾. Writer AI Content Detector stated that my essay was most likely written by by (a) **Human** ▾. I have attached a



screenshot as proof of my results.

add text here

d. In my opinion, my essay's statistical scores are acceptable because

- i. I understand that Ms. Austin will reject my essay if my scores are below a 80 in each detector and or if my essay registers as being most likely written by AI.
- ii. I understand that if I falsify my GPTZero scores or falsify my use of AI software, Ms. Austin will give my essay a ZERO and report my dishonesty to Dr. Reid.
- iii. I also understand that If I fail to fill out any portion of this disclosure, Ms. Austin will give me a grade of missing and/or ZERO in the gradebook.