B2   Communicating Results: The Digital Forensic Report

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of how digital forensic reports can be organized and written in a manner that will assist the reader to better understand the examiner's results while aiding the examiner in structuring their testimony.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by improving the quality and content of digital forensic examinations.

One of the criticisms articulated in the National Academy of Sciences report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*, concerned the content and effectiveness of forensic reports. The structure, content, and detail found in forensic reports vary widely in the profession and often are written for the examiner's benefit, not the reader. This presentation will look at the requirements for forensic reports, based upon the Federal Rules of Evidence, and how those translate into a set of requirement. An example will be offered as to how these might translate into a report format. Utilizing genre theory, the report format will then be examined to determine the most effective structure, organization, and text that will prove to be most effective. At the conclusion of this presentation attendees will have an understanding of how digital forensic reports can be organized and written in a manner that will assist the reader to better understand the examiner's results while aiding the examiner in structuring their testimony effectively. **Forensic Reports, Exert Testimony, Technical Writing**