This framework of opinion categories is to be used when developing and validating discipline-specific opinion scales. In the absence of discipline-wide opinion scales, a forensic science service provider (FSSP) can use this standard to develop an FSSP-specific opinion scale.

The opinion categories presented in the framework describe the relative level of support provided by the data given common source and different source propositions. Those categories are:

- Strong Support for Different Source
- Support for Different Source*
- Inconclusive
- Support for Common Source*
- Strong Support for Common Source

*The standard allows for these two opinion categories to be subdivided into more specific intervals when empirical research demonstrates that practitioners can accurately and reliably apply the more specific categories.

The discipline, or the FSSP, is expected to define the necessary criteria to form an opinion for each category.