



WICKLANDER - ZULAWSKI INSTRUCTOR INSIGHTS



KEITH ZUPEC, CFI
Law Enforcement Instructor

 kzupec@w-z.com

 [@keith-zupiec-a9b305223](https://www.linkedin.com/in/keith-zupiec-a9b305223)

INSTRUCTOR INSIGHTS 2023 SCHEDULE

JULY 7

AUGUST 4

SEPTEMBER 1

OCTOBER 6

NOVEMBER 3

DECEMBER 1

LIVE on Youtube

Join us on the first
Friday of every month
at 9:00AM Central Time



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FALSE CONFESSIONS

Every investigator should have an understanding of false confessions before they dive into a profession that involves interviewing. Even a well-intended investigator may obtain false information from a subject throughout the course of an investigation. Investigators must be self-aware during an interview to make sure they are not walking a subject down a path that may lead to a false confession. The intention of the investigator should always be to obtain actionable intelligence from a subject and not just a "confession". A false confession can have devastating consequences for all those involved, including the subject who provided it, the victim of the crime, and the community as a whole.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Investigators must understand the types of false confessions that occur; Voluntary, Coerced-Compliant, and Coerced-Internalized.
- Investigators must recognize the common contributors to false confessions. These areas include errors of misclassification, coercion, and contamination.
- The interviewer should compare known facts of the investigation to statements by the subject, exploring any contradiction thoroughly.
- Interviewers should avoid known coercive tactics, including the false evidence ploy, threats, or promises of leniency.
- An investigation should continue after the interview, including searching for evidence to corroborate or disprove the information provided by the subject.
- Investigators should review the disclosures made by the subject against a timeline of when and how those details were originally revealed. Information provided by the subject without being contaminated by media coverage or the investigator may strengthen the reliability of the statement.
- Electronic recording of an interview provides a great tool for investigators to evaluate their own performance and critique the statements provided to them. Not only can this aid in accurate report writing, but it can also provide the opportunity for a critical review of the process.