

***Criminal Investigation,***  
Seventh Edition

Chapter Twenty-Four  
The Investigator as Witness

# *Credibility*

- Officers are not entitled to anymore credibility than other witnesses. Officers can overcome some issues due to perceived neutrality, professionalism, knowledge and being straightforward.

# *Characteristics of a Good Witness*

- Officers should be prepared.
- Review notes.
- Review case with prosecutor.

# *Understanding the Jury*

- Officers must understand that juries make decisions based on evidence, but the demeanor of the witness, defendant, lawyers and other factors.

# ***Cross-Examination***

1. Showing that the witness's previous statements, personal conduct, or conduct of the investigation is inconsistent with the witness's testimony in court.
2. Showing that the witness is biased or prejudiced for or against the state or the defendant, because of a close relationship, personal interest in the outcome of the case, hostility toward the opposing party, or similar biases.

## ***Cross-Examination***

3. Attacking the character of the witness – revealing prior criminal convictions or other irrefutable characteristics that would render testimony unworthy of belief.
4. Showing the witness's incapacity to observe, recollect, or recount due to mental weakness, a physical defect, influence of drugs or alcohol or the like.

# ***Cross-Examination***

5. Showing that the witness is in error, that the facts are otherwise than as testified.

***The End***