Marilyn Mendoza, 35 years old, was a business owner in El Paso, Tx. She was described as an animal lover and friend. She owned and operated Perfect Paws which is a pet shop that also specializes in horse, rabbit, and cow rehabilitation. She was dating a man by the name of Robert Morales of Las Cruces, NM and sources close to Marilyn said that they were “happy and in love”.

On the night of August 23, 2017, Marilyn Mendoza was fatally attacked in her home by an unknown intruder. There were no fingerprints recovered, however traces of blood and hair were found. There were 5 different hair samples that were found within the house, plus hair found near the body and the victims hair. DNA returned inconclusive. The examination of hair found at the crime scene may be the only way to determine which suspect was involved.

Directions:

Before you begin, make sure your area is free from contaminates and distractions (cell phone use). (no food or drink at the lab). Also, each group will be graded as a whole and members will be graded individually.

1. Gather the following items: Microscope, basket of slides and tweezers, one chart paper per person in your group, and evidence envelope.
2. Carefully, remove the hair from each of the bindles, prepare the microscope slide with the single hair, view the hair under the high-power setting. (you only have 1 hair... if you lose it- it’s gone)
3. Complete the chart.
4. Repeat with each bindle
5. Answer the “final analysis” questions on the paper – this is a rough draft.
6. When you are finished, return all materials neatly and begin the lab write up.