

## Writing Exercise (Chapters 8 & 9)

The following assignment replaces the writing assignment for chapters 8 and 9. This assignment is worth 100 points:

- Use the TEST formula to evaluate the most viable explanation (from the list of theories provided below).

Your essay should not exceed one page in length.

On November 3, 2017, Joseph Oliver Ellington (Joe) did not show for work at his scheduled time. He works the 8:00 am to 4:30 pm shift as a first level manager for a wireless communications service provider. Everyone in the office is concerned because Joe has never been late for work. The office is abuzz with theories ranging from the absurd to the credible as the genuinely concerned and skeptically interested troll the depths of the human imagination for an explanation.

Consider the following information about Joe as you infer the best explanation:

- a 50 year old male in good physical condition
- no policerecord
- honorable discharge from military service
- friendly and well-mannered; no close friends on the job
- has a master's degree in information technology from a state university
- Joe has never been late for work or missed a day from work since he was employed with the company 25 years ago
- unmarried; no children
- very private person
- avid cyclists
- owns & lives in condominium complex near the beach
- does not own a car
- takes the train to work
- does not have a land line (home phone); cell phone only
- does not gamble
- meticulous and well-organized

Additional factors to consider:

- Joe's commute is about 45 minutes to 1 hour via train.
- There is construction all over the city, particularly infrastructure improvements to the metro/train system.

- There have been reports that employees from other departments and companies have reported late to work.
- There are reportedly a few 'dead cell zones' in the area (that affect cell phone).

What follows is a list of theories compiled from Joe's coworkers :

- car crash
- ill/died
- overslept or went back to sleep
- carpool problems
- wife died
- extra marital affair
- stuck in traffic
- lost name tag
- kidnapped
- flat tire
- kids sick
- arrested
- alien abduction
- car problems: flat tire, ran out of gas, etc.
- won lottery
- wife in labor
- locked in bathroom
- quit job
- witness protection
- incontinence
- dementia (got lost)
- road construction
- terrorist attack
- robbed
- off day (vacation)
- train delay
- eloped with new girlfriend
- eluding the FBI
- stricken with Ebola
- Joined ISIS
- Undercover FBI or CIA operative
- Undercover boss
- Criminal life has caught up with him