

## UNIT 2 SAMPLE DB POSTS

### INITIAL POST

Hi, everyone,

I read an article called Forensic Science: A Time of Transformation, written by Jim Dawson. You can find the article here: <https://www.nij.gov/journals/277/pages/forensics.aspx>

I think that the author is writing to a general audience and that he wants to tell us about how the field of Forensic Science is undergoing a lot of changes lately. He also indicates that the field itself needs to make some changes to get rid of biases that occur and how they can hurt situations where forensics experts testify in court cases. It was a well written article because it is organized around how the field has changed lately and how it still needs to be transformed to be considered a “real” science.

One thing I learned about writing from reading the article is that if you’re not clear and don’t develop your ideas fully, the audience won’t understand your point. I sometimes forget when I write that I am writing to an audience and that I have to be clear for them. The writer uses language and words that I don’t understand sometimes, so that may be a weakness in the article.

My question is about the audience of the article. I always used to think that the audience is just the reader. This unit’s reading says that is wrong, that writers target specific groups of people. Is that true and am I right about the audience here in this article?

Thanks,

Marsha

### RESPONSE TO INITIAL POST

Hi Marsha,

I read the article you linked and you are right that the author is explaining why this field still needs to make changes. I am not sure about the audience you refer to though. If this article is published in a Journal called the National Institute of Justice, would the audience here be experts in that field? That may also be why the vocabulary in the article is hard to understand sometimes. If the author is writing to experts, he would want to use the lingo that experts use. I’m not an expert in the field, so I had to look up some of the vocabulary. This unit’s reading on comprehension skills suggests that we have to look words up if we don’t understand them, and I’ve started doing that to help me with understanding these articles we are reading better. What do you think about my ideas about audience?

Keith