

FENDER BENDER ON FIRST STREET

DIRECTIONS: Read the following news article. Find three observations and write them below. Complete the observation criteria checklist for each observation.

At 3:30 p.m on Thursday, two cars collided at the intersection of First and Main Streets. According to police reports no one was hurt in the accident, but there was damage to both cars.

Mr. John Davidson was walking past the intersection at the time of the collision. Mr. Davidson stated that a blue Ford, driven by Mike Little, ran the stop sign on First street and hit a small car being driven down Main Street. "The driver did not even touch his brake as he sped through the stop," recalled Davidson, when interviewed the next day.

Officer Mark McCaffrey was the first policeman on the scene. His report states that he believes that Mr. Little ran the stop sign travelling at approximately 25 miles per hour. He saw no skid marks and concluded that the drivers did not see each other before the accident. Mr. Little has been charged with reckless driving.

In an interview at the scene of the accident Mr. Little claimed that he was not able to stop due to a sudden failure of his brakes. "I slowed the car as much as I could, but without brakes I had no choice but to run the stop," said Mr. Little. He also added that if the other car had not been exceeding the speed limit the accident could have been avoided.

Stephen Cox, the other driver involved in the accident, disagreed with Mr. Little's estimate of his speed. Mr. Cox explained that he was well under the 45 mile per hour speed limit. "Mr. Little was traveling with such speed that I did not see him until after his car had collided with mine. There is no way I could have avoided the accident," said Mr. Cox.

OBSERVATION #1:  
Who made the observation?  
  
Describe the observation.

OBSERVATION #2:  
Who made the observation?  
  
Describe the observation?

OBSERVATION #3:  
Who made the observation?  
  
Describe the observation

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**INFORMAL OBSERVATION CRITERIA**

CRITERIA	OBSERVATION #1		OBSERVATION #2		OBSERVATION #3	
	RATING	COMMENT	RATING	COMMENT	RATING	COMMENT
1. Was the observer alert to the event being reported?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Was the observer emotionally stable?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Was the observer's statement about what he/she saw made close to the time of the observation?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Does the observer have a reputation for honesty?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Does the observer have any reason to distort what took place (conflict of interest)?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Was the observer in a good position to make the observation?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Does the observer have a sound mind and normally functioning senses?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Does the observation conflict with any laws of nature? (gravity etc...)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Is the observation supported by others?	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	