John Reid Interview - Interrogation Books

Four must-have interview / interrogation books for detectives

John Reid & Associates has four books that fall in the must-have category for detectives and investigators. None of them is a substitute for the Reid three-day, instructor-led course. However, all of them serve as reminders, thought-prompters and most of all, post-course resources.

Anatomy of Interrogation Themes
All graduates of the Reid Technique know the most important phase of the entire process is selection and development of the interrogation "theme." The theme is a good reason, excuse or face-saving way for the guilty to admit guilt. The guilty mentally link their admission to the theme.

This book by Louis Senese contains over 1,600 themes and theme dialogues. The themes are all broken down by crime; over 50 different crimes. These run the full criminal and civil spectrum from arson to shoplifting, from homicide to check deception. Quite literally, every crime a detective is even remotely likely to investigate has pages and pages of specific themes, each complete with examples. For example, child sexual abuse has 49 different themes, hate crimes has 43 themes, robbery has 22 different themes, and burglary has 44 themes.

Child Abuse Offenders
This book by David Buckley is over 300 pages specifically focused on the twin topics of child sexual abuse and child physical abuse. It has over 90 suggested interview questions for sexual abuse and over 75 suggested interview questions for physical abuse. The book covers the initial interview based on the Reid Technique, including an overview of behavior-provoking questions. It then moves on to the interrogation phase, following the Reid Nine Steps.

The book has dual sections (sexual, physical) on common behavioral patterns and characteristics, victim selection, rationalizations, precipitators and propensities, and finally, the relationship with the victim. The real core, the most unique aspect, are eight complete interviews with convicted male and female child abuse offenders. In addition, the book contains several real-world, child-abuse case studies. The book is diverse and complete enough to be of use both to detectives specializing in child abuse cases and to patrol officers on smaller agencies who seldom handle such cases.

Essentials of the Reid Technique
Essentials is co-authored by Fred Inbau, John Reid, Joseph Buckley and Brian Jayne. This book is the Reid Technique, step by step. For all practical purposes, Essentials is the workbook of the three-day Interview & Interrogation seminar. The book begins with defining the difference between an interview and an interrogation, then moves quickly to setting up the interview room, preparation for the interview, and the general demeanor of the investigator during the interview.

Essentials covers open-ended questions and how to elicit a full response. Behavior symptom analysis is covered in detail. Essentials covers the Reid Nine Steps of Interrogation with separate chapters on each. This book is a complete review of the Reid Technique and has it all. If it is absolutely impossible to send an officer to the instructor-led, three-day course, Essentials is the next best option.

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The Investigator Anthology
This 500-page tome by Brian Jayne and Joseph Buckley is a compilation of articles and essays about the Reid Technique. The basics are covered in the three-day seminar and in the book, Essentials. The Investigator Anthology is for detectives who want to take the next step up in refining their art and skill. In this book, every aspect of the Reid Technique is covered in detail, from behavior analysis to testifying in court. Every eventuality is covered.

All four books are available through the Reid website, as are additional books, CDs, DVDs, and access to the Reid newsletter.