

# Gangs

Law



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Chicago Police Department Suspect Descriptors During a manhunt for a suspect, it is important for the police to have a description of the suspect so as to know what to look for. This means that the police need an accurate description of all identifying features of the suspect. It is this kind of thinking that saw the Chicago Police Department develop a list of the possible descriptors that one needs to fill out while identifying a suspect.

#### Location

Knowing where one is the time of the crime is of utmost importance. However, noticing things about the location involves more than just where you are. You need to note the direction in which the suspect fled, the mode of transportation he used, the make, color, and model of the vehicle he used as well as the license plates and any other thing that may describe the vehicle like its condition (Portal. chicagopolice. org, 2014). It is important to observe if the suspect is armed and if so what type as well as the accomplices involved in the crime.

#### General description

This involves an outline of the suspect's characteristics. First, note the sex of the suspect and the race or nationality if it is possible to identify. A complexion description is also necessary. The body size should come next. This consists of the suspect's height and build. An estimate of the weight may also be included. The suspect's age range should also be identified. Another important feature is the hair. This involves color, style, texture and length (Portal. chicagopolice. org, 2014). Also note the nature of the eyes in terms of color, shape, eyebrows and eyelashes. Physical peculiarities like limps, high pitched voice and accents need to be remembered.

#### Clothing

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Start with the general appearance of the suspect, whether, neat, sloppy, well-groomed or dirty. Then give a description of the pieces of clothing that he or she is wearing. This incorporates the color, length, accessories, design, patterns and style of everything that the suspect is wearing, from the hat, shirt, coat and trousers to the socks, shoes and jewelry (Portal. chicagopolice. org, 2014). If there are any oddities it is important to mention them.

#### Facial information

This covers everything on the face. It consists of;

Hair color, style, texture, hairline

Forehead height and skin texture

Nose shape both overall and for the nostrils

Eyes color, shape, eyebrow and eyelash heaviness as well as nature

Ear size and prominence

Cheek location whether high or low, wrinkles prominence, are they filled out or flesh sunken?

Chin shape and nature

Mouth description of the lips; thin, full level, turned up or down

Facial hair present- goatee, sideburns, clean shaven, unshaven, or mustache

Complexion

Example suspect description

The mugging occurred at the union street train station at six o'clock in the evening. There was only one attacker armed with a knife. The suspect was a Hispanic male in his mid twenties, about six feet tall and weighed around 200 pounds. He had black hair that was straight and short with a receding hairline. He had large brown, bloodshot eyes with heavy eyebrows. His

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cheeks were deep set with a double chin that was covered by a two day beard. He spoke in a deep voice with a Spanish accent. He wore a black sweat shirt with large prints on the back, a pair of black sweat pants and red sneakers.

#### References

Portal. chicagopolice. org,. (2014). How to Describe a Suspect. Retrieved 25 September 2014, from <https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath/Get%20Involved/Hotlines%20and%20CPD%20Contacts/How%20to%20Describe%20a%20Suspect>