

SECTION **11**
Report Writing

11.1 – 11.2 **COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Contents	
11.1	Field Notes and Notebook
11.2	Report Writing Requirements
	List of Subtopics
	Attestation
	Instructions to Administrators
	Instructions to FTOs

Note to Administrators

In order for POST to review and approve your agency's *Field Training Guide*, you MUST submit the following electronic files:

- 1) The POST FTP Approval Checklist ([Form 2-230](#))
- 2) Your department's *Policy & Procedure Manual*
- 3) Your completed Guide (Volumes 1 & 2), including ALL competency requirements covered in Part 5, Sections 1–18.

LIST OF SUBTOPICS**11.1 FIELD NOTES AND NOTEBOOK**

- 11.1.01 Necessity for Field Notes
- 11.1.02 Discoverable Contents
- 11.1.03 Types of Entries
- 11.1.04 Recording Pertinent Information

11.2 REPORT WRITING REQUIREMENTS

- 11.2.01 Flow of Completed Reports
- 11.2.02 Report Depository
- 11.2.03 Records Unit
- 11.2.04 Records Unit
- 11.2.05 Importance of Police Reports
- 11.2.06 Components of a Well-Written Police Report
- 11.2.07 Types of Report Forms
- 11.2.08 "Cold" Crime Reports
- 11.2.09 Preparing a Written Report
- 11.2.10 Completing Reports Following an Arrest

SECTION 11 REPORT WRITING

CHECK ONE ONLY: PHASE 1 PHASE 2 PHASE 3 PHASE 4 PHASE 5

Trainee

FTO

11.1 FIELD NOTES AND NOTEBOOK

11.1.01 Necessity for Field Notes
 The trainee shall explain the necessity for field notes. The explanation shall minimally include:

A. References for future investigation
 B. References for future court appearance
 C. Beat or area information

<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (If applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test		<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test	
Trainee:								
<i>Comments (field will expand automatically)</i>								

Additional Information:

11.1.01 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation)

11.1.01 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

11.1.02 Discoverable Contents								
The trainee shall recognize That the contents of field notes are discoverable in a court proceeding.								
<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (If applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
Comments <i>(field will expand automatically)</i>								

Additional Information:

11.1.02	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable <i>(600 characters maximum)</i> WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
----------------	---	------------------------------

11.1.02	Part B - Agency Training Details <i>(field will expand automatically)</i>
----------------	--

11.1.03 Types of Entries
 The trainee shall identify the types of information that may/should be entered into his/her field notes or notebook. This information may include:

- A. Date, day, time, and vehicle number
- B. Name(s) of additional personnel and supervisor
- C. Type of incident
- D. Pertinent information
- E. Names of suspects, victims, witnesses, and reporting persons

<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (If applicable)</i>		<i>Incident #</i>	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?	
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test	
Trainee:									
<i>Comments (field will expand automatically)</i>									

Additional Information:

11.1.03 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation), WPD GO #18-06

11.1.03 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

11.1.04 Recording Pertinent Information Given an incident, the trainee shall properly use field notes or a notebook to record pertinent information.								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
Comments <i>(field will expand automatically)</i>								

Additional Information:

11.1.04 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
--	---

11.1.04 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

11.2 REPORT WRITING REQUIREMENTS								
11.2.01 Flow of Completed Reports The trainee shall exhibit an appropriate knowledge of the flow of completed reports and the relative importance of the information that they contain.								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
Comments (field will expand automatically)								

Additional Information:

11.2.01 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation), WPD GO #18-06	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
---	------------------------------

11.2.01 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

11.2.02 Report Depository The trainee shall give the location of the report depository.								
<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (If applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
<i>Comments (field will expand automatically)</i>								

Additional Information:

11.2.02 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
--	---

11.2.02 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

11.2.03 Records Unit								
The trainee shall describe the function for the records unit in the reporting process.								
<i>Reference(s):</i>							<i>Case # (If applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
<i>Comments (field will expand automatically)</i>								

Additional Information:

11.2.03	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation), WPD GO #18-06	

11.2.03	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
----------------	---

11.2.04 Investigative Units and the District Attorney’s Office								
The trainee shall describe the functions of the investigative unit(s) and the District Attorney’s Office in the reporting process.								
<i>Reference(s):</i>							Case # (If applicable)	Incident #
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
<i>Comments (field will expand automatically)</i>								

Additional Information:

11.2.04 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
WPD Policies #343 (Report Preparation), #600 (Investigation and Prosecution) and WPD GO #18-06	

11.2.04 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

11.2.05 Importance of Police Reports
 The trainee shall discuss the importance of police reports, including these uses:

A. Recording facts into permanent record	D. Providing statistical data
B. Providing coordination of follow-up activities	E. Providing a source for trainee evaluation
C. Providing investigative leads	F. Providing reference material

Reference(s): Case # (if applicable) Incident #

	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								

Comments *(field will expand automatically)*

Additional Information:

11.2.05 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable *(600 characters maximum)* N/A

WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation), WPD GO #18-06

11.2.05 Part B - Agency Training Details *(field will expand automatically)*

11.2.06 Components of a Well-Written Police Report
 The trainee shall explain the qualities of a well-written police report. These shall include:

A. Accuracy	F. Objectivity
B. Brevity	G. Grammatical and structural correctness
C. Completeness	H. Timeliness
D. Clarity	I. First person/active voice/past tense
E. Legibility/Neatness	

<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (If applicable)</i>		<i>Incident #</i>	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?	
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date		
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test	
Trainee:									
Comments <i>(field will expand automatically)</i>									

Additional Information:

11.2.06 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable *(600 characters maximum)* N/A

WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation), WPD GO #18-06

11.2.06 Part B - Agency Training Details *(field will expand automatically)*

11.2.07 Types of Report Forms									
The trainee shall identify the proper report forms to be utilized in given situations (e.g., Missing Persons, DUI, Found Property, etc.)									
Reference(s):							Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?	
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date		
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test	
Trainee:									
Comments (field will expand automatically)									

Additional Information:

11.2.07	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation), WPD GO #18-06	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
----------------	---	------------------------------

11.2.07	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
----------------	---

11.2.08 “Cold” Crime Reports Following the completion of a preliminary investigation of a “cold” crime, the trainee shall record all pertinent information in correct format on the proper report form.								
Reference(s):						Case # (if applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
Comments (field will expand automatically)								

Additional Information:

11.2.08 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) WPD Policies #343 (Report Preparation), #600 (Investigation and Prosecution) and WPD GO #18-06	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
--	------------------------------

11.2.08 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)	
---	--

11.2.09 Preparing a Written Report
 The trainee shall prepare a report that minimally includes:

<p>A. Organizing facts in chronological order</p> <p>B. Relating facts in appropriate sentence form</p> <p>C. Correctly filling in all appropriate boxes</p>	<p>D. Properly establishing who, what, when, where, why, how, and how many</p> <p>E. Properly establishing the elements of the crime(s), when appropriate</p>
--	---

<i>Reference(s):</i>						Case # (If applicable)		Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?	
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test	
Trainee:									
<i>Comments (field will expand automatically)</i>									

Additional Information:

11.2.09	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation), WPD GO #18-06		

11.2.09	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
----------------	---

11.2.10 Completing Reports Following an Arrest
 Given an incident in which an arrest is made, the trainee shall demonstrate the ability to satisfactorily complete all the appropriate police reports involved, to minimally include:

- A. Elements constituting the offense
- B. Complete documentation of reasonable/probably cause
- C. Complete description of all physical evidence, where it was found, and its disposition
- D. Complete listing of all suspects, including whether or not they are in custody

<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (If applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
<i>Comments (field will expand automatically)</i>								

Additional Information:

<p>11.2.10 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>WPD Policy #343 (Report Preparation), WPD GO #18-06</p>
--

<p>11.2.10 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)</p>
--

See next page for Attestation

How to Complete Part 5 (Sections 1–18)

INSTRUCTIONS TO ADMINISTRATORS

VOLUME 2 OF THE FIELD TRAINING GUIDE CONSISTS OF 18 SECTIONS WHICH MAKE UP PART 5. Each section is provided as a separate file on the POST website (<https://www.post.ca.gov/field-training--police-training.aspx>). Prior to submitting your FTP Guide to POST for review, you must complete all 18 sections and include them as part of your Guide.

1. **Set up:** Keep an unchanged copy of each section file as a master for reference. Make a copy of the file to use for your agency-specific entries.
2. **Front cover (optional):** To keep a hard copy of Volume 2 for internal use, you can add your agency name and date to the front cover.
3. **For each section (1–18):**
 - a. Open the applicable file and add your agency name and date to the header on page 1. (DO NOT change any other headers or footers or alter any other sections of the file.)
 - b. Below each table:
 - *Part A:* Enter applicable references from your agency’s Policies & Procedure Manual.
 - *Part B:* Enter your agency’s training details.
4. **After completing ALL sections (1–18),** you MUST submit the following materials via flash drive, CD, or DVD to POST for review and approval (do not send printed copies):
 - 1) **Your completed FTP Guide**
 - 2) **FTP Approval Checklist ([POST Form 2-230](#))**
NOTE: Guides submitted without this form will NOT be reviewed.
 - 3) **Your Department’s Policy & Procedure Manual**
5. MAIL YOUR ELECTRONIC MEDIA TO:
Commission on POST
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Attn: Basic Training Bureau (BTB)
6. You will receive status notification within 90 days from the date received.

See next page for Instructions to Field Training Officers

How to Complete Part 5 (Sections 1–18)

INSTRUCTIONS TO FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS (FTOs)

VOLUME 2 OF THE FIELD TRAINING GUIDE CONSISTS OF 18 SECTIONS WHICH MAKE UP PART 5. Each section has been customized by your agency administrator(s) to include references to policies and procedures and training details to meet your agency’s Field Training Program requirements. Each file is provided as a separate file. For each section (1–18), complete all tables for each topic.

1. **Set up:** Keep an unchanged copy of each section file as a master for reference. Make a copy of the file to use for your training sessions.
2. **Tracking your training sessions:**
 - a. Upon completing each competency, enter the FTO and trainee names and dates, and how the competency was demonstrated, into the applicable tables.
 - b. Enter any note-worthy comments related to the trainee’s performance.
3. **If trainee requires remedial training:**
 - c. Enter the FTO and trainee names and dates, and how the competency was remediated, to show that each competency was completed.
 - d. Enter any additional note-worthy comments related to the trainee’s performance.
4. **Attestation:** After all competencies have been performed, including any remedial training, the primary FTO and Trainee **MUST** enter their electronic signatures on the Attestation page (see instructions) to verify that the Trainee has completed this portion of the Field Training Program.

End Section