

## ***Post Mortem: Things to Know Before You Go***

**Directions:** Work with your group to read the assigned article and answer the questions. Use the website listed to access your article. Be prepared to share your findings with the class and take notes during other group presentations.

### **Article 1: “Autopsy 101”**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/post-mortem/things-to-know/autopsy-101.html>

1. Why do some experts believe that everyone who dies should get an autopsy?

Do you agree? Why or why not?

2. What happens if an autopsy is delayed rather than being performed within 24 hours of death?

### **Article 2: “Forensic Pathologists: The Death Detectives”**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/post-mortem/things-to-know/forensic-pathologists.html>

1. What type of training is needed to become a forensic pathologist?
2. Why is there a critical shortage of forensic pathologists?
3. Do you think it is important to have a forensic pathologist involved in every death investigation? Why or why not?

### **Article 3: “No National Standards, Little Oversight”**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/post-mortem/things-to-know/no-standards.html#ixzz1lrWq2tVz>

1. How might national standards increase the quality of death investigations in America?

2. Why don't more offices seek accreditation?

3. How does the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act propose to combat the problems with death investigation?

**Article 4: "The Price of Reform" (a section of "The Real CSI")**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/post-mortem/real-csi/#ixzz1lrR82Sy1>

1. How much would it cost per person per year to run a good medical examiner's office?

2. Why are taxpayers unwilling to pay this price?

3. What benefits can society expect to get if additional money is spent on death investigation?

**Article 5: "How Qualified Is Your Coroner?"**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/post-mortem/things-to-know/how-qualified-is-your-coroner.html#ixzz1lrSLQYcV>

1. What did you learn about the requirements for being a coroner?

2. What do you think should be the qualifications of a coroner? Why?

3. What keeps states from replacing coroners with more qualified death investigators?