



# Statement Analysis Tools

Deception Recognition Tool - DRT

## **Criteria # 1 – Hero/Victim Role**

- Cites all of the “good things” they have done
- Manages the interviewer’s impressions of their character
- Claims to be self-sacrificing
- Positions self as a protector and/or great caregiver
- Empathy hijacking and emotional appeals
- Frames themselves as a martyr
- Claims to be unfairly or intentionally targeted
- Reverses or shifts blame away from themselves
- Claims they have been targeted for revenge

## **Criteria # 2 - Character Assassination / Victim Denigration**

- Attacks the character and motives of the victim
- Attacks people supportive of victim (outcry witnesses, protective parties)
- Claims the victim initiated the act (denial of their own responsibility)
- Attacks accusers or who are not aligned with offender’s narrative
- Discrediting anything or anyone against them

## **Criteria # 3 - Virtue Signaling / Virtue by Association**

- Talks about religion or God and their ties to God or faith
- Claims that they are righteous & above reproach
- Cites how they are successful & well-respected
- Cites how they are connected to powerful people, politicians, etc...
- Cites their association with nonprofits or organizations that do charitable work
- Cites their lack of criminal history as proof of innocent and righteous character

## **Criteria # 4 - Hedging & Qualifiers**

- Using language to “build a bridge” over something they don’t want to talk about
- Using “qualifying” statements
- Using vague, evasive or distancing language
- Use of selective amnesia
- Use of pronouns that distance themselves from something or someone
- Use of excessive, non-relevant details
- Stalling for time to think (“huh?”, repeating questions, etc...)

### **Examples of Hedging Words:**

Perhaps – Apparently – Allegedly – Somewhat – Evidently – Maybe – Might – Possibly – Probably – Potentially – Supposedly – Sort of – Kind of – Slightly – Basically – Essentially



# Statement Analysis Tools

Deception Recognition Tool - DRT

## **Examples of Hedging Phrases:**

“I could never...” – “I would never...” – “More or less...” – “To an extent...” – “In a way...” – “To the best of my knowledge.” – “Not to my knowledge.” – “Next thing you know...” – “As far as I know...” – “I can’t say for certain...”

## **Criteria # 5 - Sincerity Claims**

- Insistence on truthfulness & honesty
- Performative veracity
- “I swear”/“honestly...”/“to tell you the truth”
- False emotional displays

## **Criteria # 6 – Mitigation of Event Language**

- Minimization, Rationalization, or Justification of their actions
- Downplaying harm done or nature of the event
- Framing it as if it is more minor than it actually is
- Framing the incident as accidental or a misinterpretation