

Lie Detection



- History of Lie Detection
- Current Methods
- What is the validity of lie detectors?
- Legal Issues
- Can you beat a lie detector?
- How to tell when someone is lying
- How to lie

History of Lie Detection

- Greeks would ask questions and “feel the subject’s pulse.”
- Torture as a means of interrogation:
 - Romans used crucifixion.
 - Strappado was a means of medieval inquisition torture which would dislocate joints. The rack would stretch the victim’s joints to breaking point. Red hot pinchers would be applied...
 - Modern: Leave a victim with no visible damage.
- In 1948, following the horrific abuses of World War II, the General Assembly of the United Nations inserted the prohibition against torture in the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 5 states: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” The prohibition against torture is well established under customary international law as *jus cogens*.
- The Supreme Court in 1963 ruled that a confession extracted under “truth serum” – drugs such as sodium pentothal, sodium amytal, and scopolamine - violated a defendant’s constitutional right against self-incrimination.
- **Should torture/ “truth serum” be permitted if its use would save lives or benefit society?**

