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If You Want to Catch a Liar, Make Him Draw

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A man accused of a crime is brought into a police interrogation room and sits down at an empty table. There's no polygraph equipment in sight, and the typical two-cop questioning team isn't in the room either. Instead, one officer enters the room with a piece of paper and a pencil in his hands. He sets them in front of the suspect, steps back, and calmly says, "draw."



That's a greatly oversimplified description of what could happen in actual interrogation rooms if the results of a recent [study](#) in the journal *Applied Cognitive Psychology* are widely adopted. The study is the first to investigate whether drawing is an effective lie detection technique in



David DiSalvo is a science, technology and culture writer whose work appears in *Scientific American Mind*, *True/Slant* and a variety of other

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