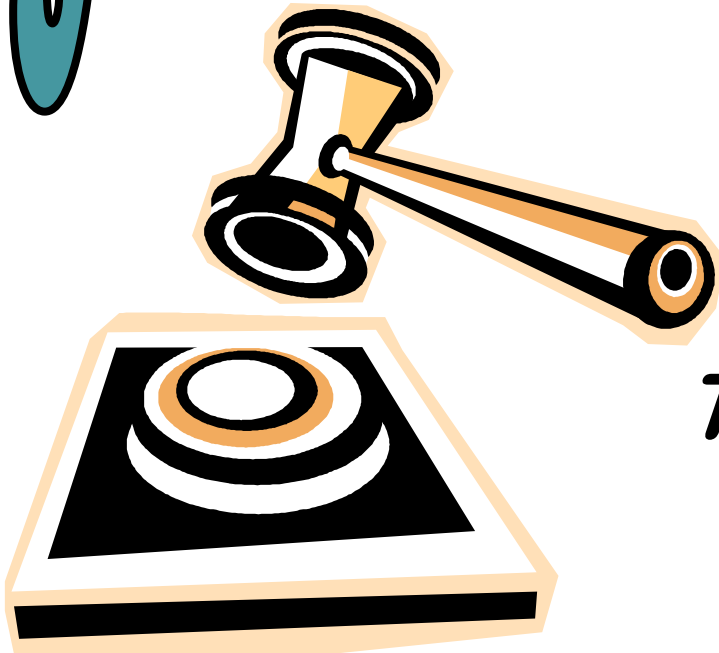


Eyewitness Basics



*Pros & Cons of
Testimonial Evidence*

 Daily CSI

 Spot the Differences

Balloon Rally

Forensic Science 25

Ward 2009 adapted from <http://sciencespot.net/>

Find the 11 differences between the two pictures.



Source: <http://www.smart-kit.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/09/ballon-spot-the-difference.jpg>

What is testimonial evidence?

Testimonial evidence includes oral or written statements given to police as well as testimony in court by people who witnessed an event.

Eyewitness accounts can be a useful tool in helping investigators with analyzing a crime scene, but are not viewed to be highly reliable. In addition, eyewitness identifications (*right or wrong*) can have a big influence on the outcome of an investigation or trial.

People are likely to view the same scene in differently depending on their positions, line of sight, familiarity with the area, and other factors.

- [The Bunny Effect CBS 60 Minutes Video Clips](#)
- [Testimonial Flaws & Memory CBS 60 Minutes Video Clips](#)
 - [Making False Memories BBC Video Clip](#)

Memory Challenge

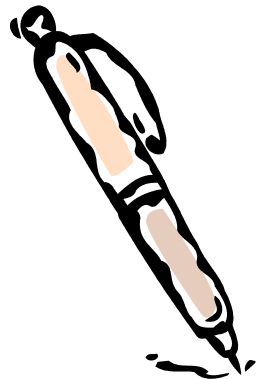
Directions:

You will have 30 seconds to view the next screen.

Try to memorize all 20 items you see!

You are NOT allowed to write anything down

You CANNOT talk to anyone else.

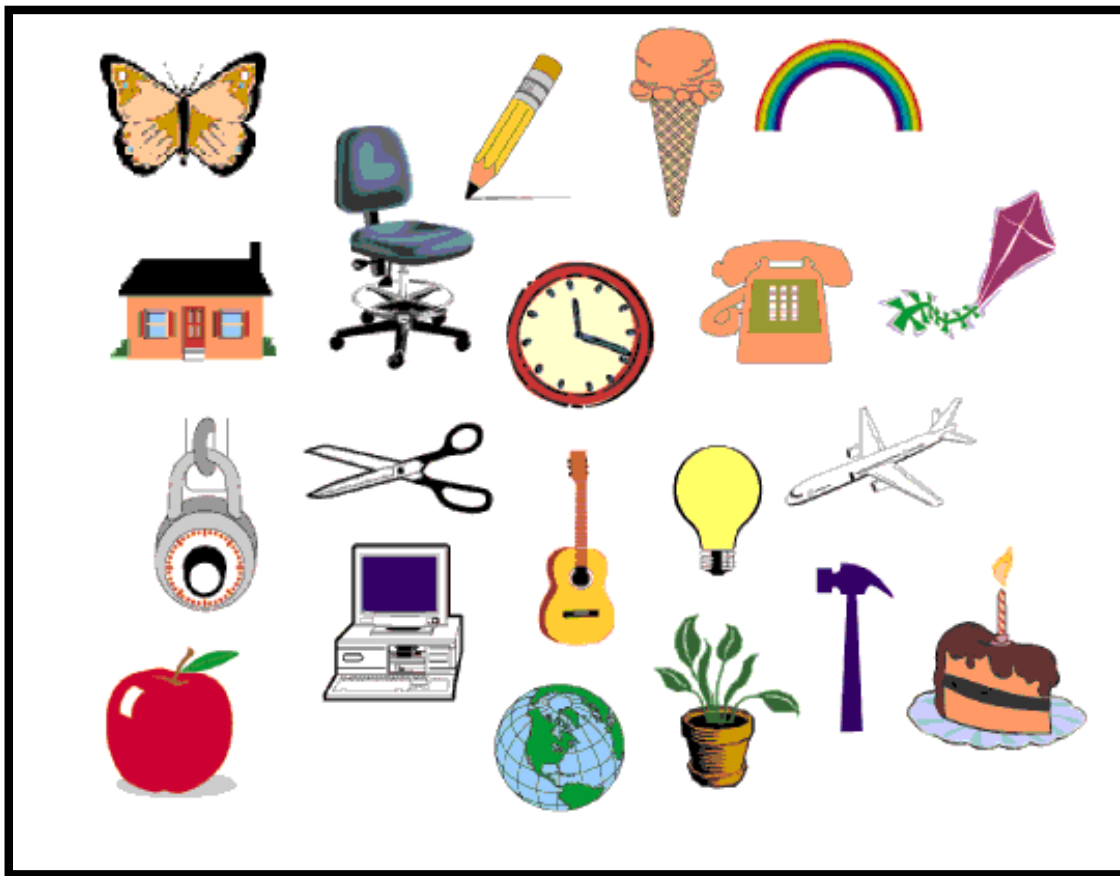


Items to remember ...



What do you remember?

You have 2 minutes to list as many of the items as you can!



How did you do?

All 20 – Awesome

15-19 – Great

10-14 – Pretty swell

5-9 – Could be better

4 or Less – Wake up

Did you know?

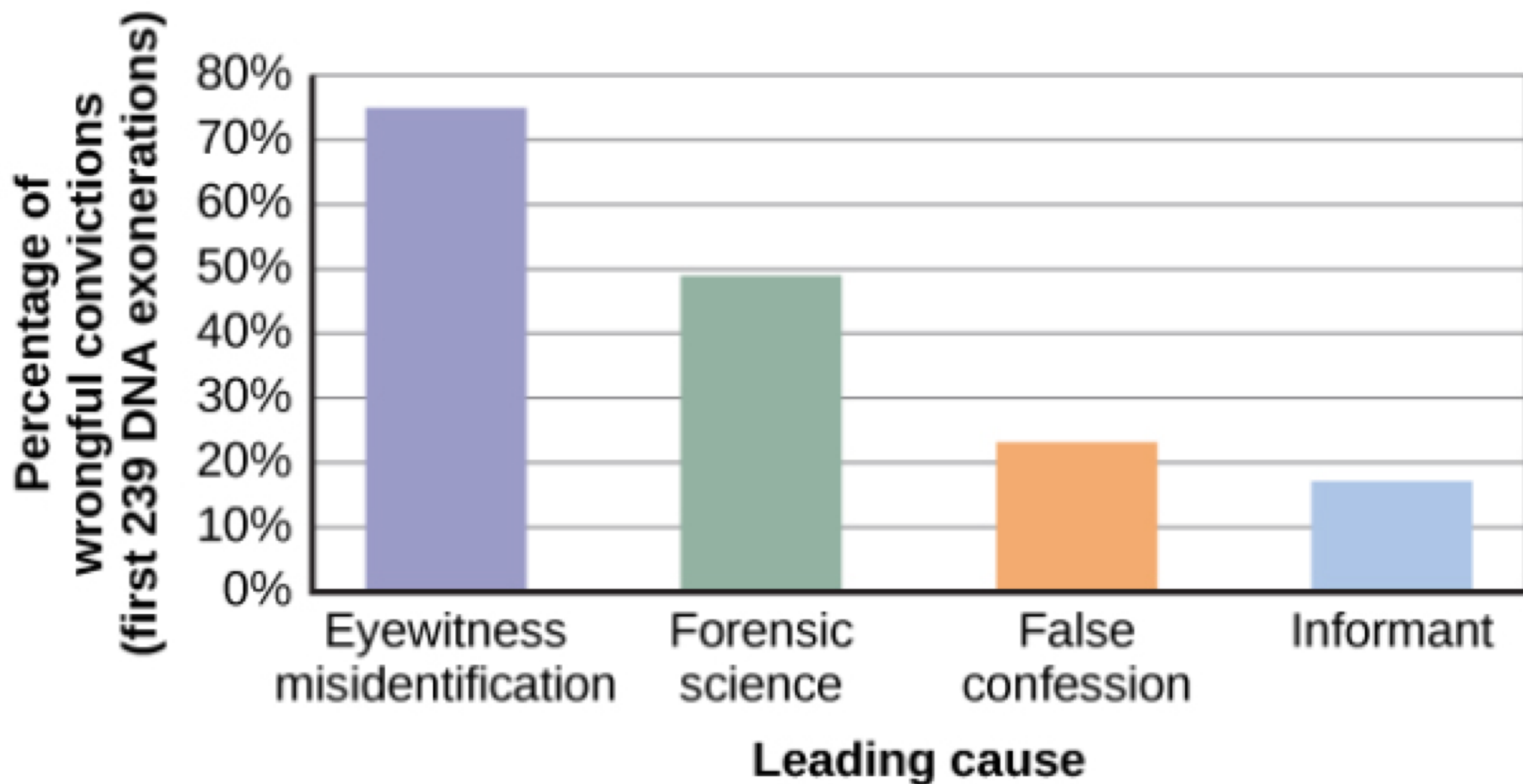
According to **The Innocence Project** (2008)

"**Eyewitness misidentification is the single greatest cause of wrongful convictions** nationwide, accounting for more than **75%** of convictions overturned through DNA testing."

Still, the criminal justice system profoundly relies on eyewitness identification and testimony for investigating and prosecuting crimes (**Wells & Olson, 2003**).

What factors affect a person's memory and their ability to identify a suspect?

Leading Cause of Wrongful Conviction in DNA Exoneration Cases (Source: Innocence Project)



Witness Factors

- **Age:**
 - With actual culprits, both **young & elderly perform best**
 - More mistakes are made when actual culprit is not in lineup.
- **Race (The Cross Race Effect CRE)**
 - people recognize faces of their own race better than of others.
- **Illicit substances:**
 - Alcohol & drugs can alter perceptions..
- **Other witnesses / Media:**
 - Use open-ended questions
 - Isolate witnesses from each other & focus on the common

Crime Scene & Suspect Factors

- **Trauma of the event:**
 - Focused on the moment not details.
- **Time:**
 - A longer view helps with accuracy & recall
- **Un-Attractive faces:**
 - Studies show these faces are recalled better.
 - Body piercings & tattoos increase accuracy.
- **Time of day:**
 - Better lighting, lack fatigue or more alert during the day

Crime Scene Challenge

- **Observation skills TEST:**
- Use 2 minutes to study the crime scene.
- **Pay attention** to details!
- **DO NOT** write any Notes.
- **Get ready** for 10 Questions?





Answer each question below.

1. What color coffee mug was in the picture? Blue Red **Yellow**
2. When was the deadline? Yesterday **Today** Tomorrow
3. What time was on the clock on the wall? 10:40 **11:05** 1:55
4. How many sticky notes were on the whiteboard? Four **Six** Eight
5. Which of the following was NOT in the picture? **Stapler** Trash Can Printer
6. What was the name on the plaque on the desk? Bill **Brian** Carl
7. What color was the victim's shirt? Black **Blue** Red
8. How many plants were in the picture? None One **Two**
9. What was the color of the marker in the desk drawer? Red Blue **Green**
10. Where was the book in the picture? **On a box** In the trash can Under the body

Sketch Artist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2X4Lubyqb2M>

- The Power of Observation

Tourist Trap

