

Eyewitness Basics

What is testimonial evidence?

Testimonial evidence includes _____ or _____ 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 crime scenes, but are not viewed to be highly _____. In addition, eyewitness identifications (right or wrong) can have a big influence on the outcome of an investigation or trial.

Witness Factors

_____ may play a role in the accuracy of an eyewitness' statement or identification of a suspect.

The Cross Race Effect (_____) is a phenomenon in which people are better at recognizing faces of their own race rather than those of other races.

The use of _____ can alter a person's ability to recall the events of a crime even after they are no longer under the influence.

A person's _____ of an event can be influenced by other witnesses, investigators, and/or the media. Investigators use open-ended questioning and procedures to limit their influence on a witness' memory of an event or identification of a suspect.

Crime Scene & Suspect Factors

A crime that is extremely _____ may affect a witness' recall of the event. For example, a witness confronted with a weapon tends to focus on the weapon rather than the perpetrator's face.

Someone who is able to _____ on a perpetrator's face for a minute or longer will tend to have a more accurate memory than someone who saw the person for only a few seconds.

_____ that are either highly attractive/unattractive or distinctive are more likely to be accurately recognized. Simple disguises can interfere with accurate eyewitness identification, but piercings and tattoos increases the likelihood of an accurate identification.

The _____ of day in which the crime occurred and a person's _____ of the scene may affect what a he/she is able to see and remember.

Did you know? Eyewitness misidentification is the single greatest cause of wrongful convictions nationwide, playing a role in more than 75% of convictions overturned through DNA testing. (The Innocence Project, 2008)

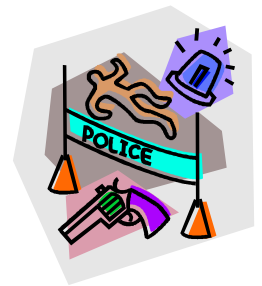
Memory Challenge

How many items do you remember? List them below.

Crime Scene Challenge

Write the answers for each question in the space below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Facial Composites

Investigators work with sketch artists and eyewitnesses to create _____, or sketches of a person's face. Today many police departments are using facial reconstruction software to help them with this task.

The composite may be used internally to assist officers in identifying the suspect or used externally through local media (radio, TV, and newspaper) to solicit leads from citizens.



_____ is a software program that offers many options to recreate a person's facial features.

CSI ONLINE: EYEWITNESS BASICS

Name _____

Go to <http://sciencespot.net/> and click the icon for the *Kid Zone*. Choose *Forensic Science* to find the links for this assignment.

► SITE #1: THE ART OF CRIME DETECTION

Part A: Read the information provided and answer these questions.

1. What are the two halves of the brain? _____
2. The left brain sees and interprets the world as _____ and _____.
3. The right brain sees and interprets the world as _____ and _____.
4. Visual artists train themselves to “turn off” the _____ brain and use just the _____ brain to draw and sketch.
5. Just as your left brain learns more vocabulary the more you _____, your right brain learns more images and how to draw those images the more you _____. This becomes sort of like a “visual vocabulary”.
6. A police sketch artist has the special ability to use both their visual vocabulary and descriptive words to produce _____.

Part B: Click the link to begin your first assignment. Read the directions provided to learn how to use the software and then try to create a composite.

After you have finished all THREE activities, rate yourself on your efforts.



► SITE #2: SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Compare the two photographs and click on the differences you see. Can you find all 5? List them below.

- 1 - _____ 2 - _____ 3 - _____
4 - _____ 5 - _____

► SITE #3: POWERS OF OBSERVATION

Watch the video and then answer the questions.

1. How many times was the basketball passed? _____
2. What was the answer to the second question? _____

► SITE #4: FBI CONCENTRATION

Try the concentration game at least 4 times. Record your number of tries for each time in the space below.

1st Try = _____ 2nd Try = _____ 3rd Try = _____ 4th Try = _____

Done? You may visit any of the sites listed on the Forensic Science page of the Kid Zone.