

Eyewitness Testimony

Psychology

Why confident eyewitnesses are frequently wrong.

Factors that reduce eyewitness accuracy.

At the event

Weapon focus — attention narrows to the weapon

Very high anxiety

Poor lighting, brief exposure

Cross-race identification is less accurate

Afterwards

Leading questions alter the memory

Post-event information is incorporated

Repeated questioning increases confidence, not accuracy

Feedback after identification inflates confidence

Improvements

Cognitive interview

Double-blind, sequential line-ups

Confidence recorded at the moment of identification

Loftus and Palmer: changing 'hit' to 'smashed' in a question raised speed estimates and produced false memories of broken glass.