



Reading for the Real World

Law & Crime

Reading 1: The Reliability of Eyewitnesses

1. Join each word with the correct definition.

Convict	Something complicated or intricate
Innocent	To declare guilty
Inaccurate	To wear down
Consciously	Faulty
Complexity	Knowingly
Degrade	Not guilty

2. True or False.

- DNA evidence reversed Ronald Cotton's rape conviction.
- Simple events are easier to recall accurately than complex events.
- "Weapon focus" is an example of memory distortion.
- Memories cannot be altered once they are stored in the brain.

TRUE	FALSE

3. Choose the correct answer for each question.

Why are about 4,250 Americans wrongly convicting each year?

- a) Because of DNA testing
- b) Because of unreliable juries
- c) Because of racial prejudice
- d) Because of eyewitness mistakes

What happens in the second step of gathering of information into memory?

- a) We can search and locate information.
- b) The brain perceives an event.
- c) The mind acts like a video camera.
- d) The brain sorts and stores memories.

How does stress affect memory?

- a) It consciously improves and clarifies people's memories.
- b) It causes people to focus only on the most important details.
- c) It causes us to see and hear what we expect to see and hear.
- d) It enlarges the "viewfinder" we each have inside our brains.



What has science discovered over the past fifty years?

- a) Scientific research has revealed that eyewitness testimony is often a correct account of what actually took place
- b) Scientific research has revealed that eyewitness testimony is always an incorrect account of what actually took place in the science.
- c) Scientific research has revealed that eyewitness testimony is often an incorrect account of what actually took place
- d) None of them.

Why do people try to fill in the gaps for things they don't remember clearly?

- a) Because the human mind prefers a "complete" picture.
- b) Because the human mind prefers a "medium" picture.
- c) Because the human mind prefers a "brief" picture.
- d) Because the human mind prefers not a picture, but memories.

4. Drag the words in the blanks. Use each word only once.

Eyewitness testimony relatively easy three-step process

Fill in the gaps over time wrongfully convicted

Over the past fifty years, thousands of innocent Americans have been 1 _____ of crimes due to inaccurate 2 _____. Scientific research has revealed that the act of remembering is a(n) 3 _____ and that the accuracy of memory depends on the complexity of the witnessed events. For simple events, it is 4 _____ for the mind to sort and store information, both consciously and unconsciously. But since memory degrades 5 _____, it is subject to distortion even after the events have been stored. When this happens, people tend to 6 _____ by combining new information with their stored memories.



5. Here are six words that are related to the topic but are not in the reading. Drag each word in the blanks. Use each word only once.

Evidence confess sentence plaintiff defendant trial

- US law guarantees that people accused of a crime get a fair _____.
- Eyewitness testimony is one type of _____ used to prove guilt or innocence.
- A(n) _____ is the person on trial who has been accused of a crime.
- Some criminals admit their guilt when they _____ their crimes.
- A(n) _____ is the person at a trial who is accusing someone of a crime.
- He is serving a twenty-five-year _____ for rape and robbery.

Reading 2: The Assumption of Innocence

1. Join each word with the correct definition.

Guilty To accept as granted or true

Assume To throw away

Having committed a crime

Dignity A person regarded with suspicion

Suspect To keep intact; to protect

Discard The state of being honored or esteemed

2. True or False.

- “Guilty until proven innocent” is part of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
- An “innocent until proven guilty” system requires a to prove his or her innocence.
- Jury members are citizens with advanced legal training.
- In the US, an accused person must be proven guilty beyond any doubt.

TRUE

FALSE

TRUE

FALSE

2000

100

100

100

TRUE

FALSE



3. Choose the correct answer for each question.

Under the “innocent until proven guilty” system, what is true?

- a) It is better to free a guilty person than imprison an innocent one.
- b) It is better to imprison an innocent person than a free guilty one.
- c) The defendant enters the courtroom from trial as a guilty person.
- d) The defendant can be freed only if there is insufficient doubt.

Where are jury members summoned from?

- a) Top-rated law schools
- b) The general population
- c) Federal prisons and jails
- d) Special training schools

Which of the following is true of “proof beyond a reasonable doubt”?

- a) It is a real or imaginary doubt based on witness testimony.
- b) It is sufficient to prove that the defendant is probably guilty.
- c) A reasonable person would consider the defendant guilty.
- d) A reasonable person would question the defendant's guilt.

What does the presumption of innocence testify to?

- a) It is a document that people who are going to jail sign to be free.
- b) It is a testament that people who will die sign to their family.
- c) It is a testament to the belief that people are basically honest and respectful of society's laws.
- d) None of them

What should guide jury members in returning a verdict?

- a) Jury members should be guided only by a full and fair evaluation of the evidence.
- b) Jury members should be guided by an honest person.
- c) Jury members are not responsible to return a verdict.
- d) Both a&c

4. Here are six words that are related to the topic but are not in the reading. Drag each word in the blanks. Use each word only once.

Hung jury double jeopardy Fifth Amendment right

Appeal perjury mistrial

- A(n) _____ results when jurors cannot agree on a verdict.
- If a witness lies while giving testimony, he or she can be convicted of _____.



- Defendants and witnesses can use their _____ in order not to testify against themselves.
- Losers in a court trial can _____ the verdict to a court at a higher level.
- A person cannot be tried twice for the same crime, a concept called _____.
- A(n) _____ occurs when a judge, lawyer, or juror makes a serious error.