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*The Accuracy Behind the Accusation*

Popular television crime dramas depict finding incriminating evidence effortlessly as the characters constantly seem to locate a reliable eyewitness. Therefore, I chose to test the accuracy of eyewitness testimony to learn if eyewitnesses should be relied upon as significantly as they currently are in our criminal justice system. I hypothesized that a majority of eyewitnesses will inaccurately identify a suspect in a line-up due to their inability to recall accurate details of the event, thus leading to a false conviction. In order to test my premise, I videotaped a brief scenario depicting a crime and showed it to a large group of students. These participants then completed surveys that acted as eyewitness testimonies asking for incident details. Subsequently, these same eyewitnesses chose a suspect from a photographic line-up of which the actual suspect was not included. After carefully sorting and graphing the data, the results revealed that the eyewitnesses averaged a score of 30% in incident and detail accuracy leading 85% of the eyewitnesses to choose the wrong suspect in the line-up. Consequently, I inferred that eyewitness testimonies and identifications aren't reliable enough to stand alone in court and should not be held in higher value than forensic evidence because eyewitnesses can't recall enough accurate details to correctly make such identifications.