Imagine you are a psychologist, and you have been brought to the stand to serve as an expert witness in court. The defense is arguing that James Healy is innocent, and did not rob Big Bucks Bank of America; however, the prosecution is arguing that Mr. Healy is guilty, and did in fact rob Big Bucks Bank of America. At this point in the case, the jury is incredibly confused because they have heard very different accounts of the robbery from two witnesses.

Take a moment to read the testimony from each witness.

Witness 1: Sadie Clemmons

Called to the stand by the Prosecution

Testimony of Sadie Clemmons:

*I remember walking into the bank, and thinking that it was quite crowded. This is why I decided to go to the water fountain before getting in line. As I headed to the water fountain, I caught a glimpse of a man who looked a little out of place. He was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, with the hood on. He also kept looking around. Back and forth, back and forth, like he was waiting for something. I could not see his face until the hood fell back slightly, revealing a Caucasian man in his early twenties, who I believe was about 5 feet, 10 inches tall. His face was skinny, and his expression was panicked looking. I remember getting a strange intuition as I passed by him. Between this encounter, and the long lines, I decided to leave the bank before withdrawing my money. I didn’t actually see the robbery when it happened, but as I look at Mr. Healy sitting in front of me today, I am confident the man I saw at the bank was him.*

Witness 2: Tyrone Johnson

Called to the stand by the Defense

Testimony of Tyrone Johnson:

*When I walked in to the bank on the day of the robbery, I remember thinking that there must be a sporting event about to happen, because there were so many people wearing sweatshirts supporting the local baseball team. A lot of people were wearing black or red sweatshirts because those are the team’s color. As I got ready to ask the bank teller to assist me in depositing money into my account, I got bumped out of the way by a 6 foot tall, skinny man in a sweatshirt. I caught a glimpse of his face, and he looked about thirty-five. The next thing I knew, everyone around me was down on the ground and being told to stay still or they would be in danger. I have to admit, it was complete chaos, and the robber could have been any number of those fans in sweat shirts.*

Now that you have read the testimonies, use your knowledge about learning and memory to provide your expert testimony that clarifies possible reasons why the two witnesses recalled different facts about the robbery. You will prepare a script of your analysis, and then create an audio recording that reflects what you would say on the witness stand. Since you have not been given any details about the witnesses, be creative and identify possible learning and memory strengths or weaknesses that may impact their ability to recall information.

In your analysis, you should use at least ten of the following terms:

* Acquisition
* Amnesia
* Automatic encoding
* Cognition
* Effortful encoding
* Emotional intelligence
* Encoding
* Insight
* Interference
* Long-term memory
* Multiple intelligences
* Negative reinforcement
* Positive reinforcement
* Punishment
* Reinforcer
* Retrieval
* Short-term memory
* Storage

Once you have completed the written transcript for your expert witness account on learning and memory, record the analysis using recording software. When you are recording the audio file, be sure to speak slowly and clearly. Use the audio recording information found in the Developmental Module to help you create the expert witness account.

Before you begin, access the Robbery Witnesses Checklist to make sure that you include all of the items required for full credit. You may need to use resources outside of this course to complete this assignment. If so, please submit a Works Cited document.

Once you have completed your script and recorded the expert eyewitness account, please submit the audio file and transcript to the dropbox.

**Checklist**

As you complete your expert witness testimony, please review the checklist below to ensure that you have included all needed items.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Your submitted work should include all of the criteria listed below to receive full credit.*** | |
| **Included?** | **Item** |
|  | Submitted a transcript for your expert witness testimony. |
|  | Submitted an audio recording of your expert witness testimony. |
|  | Included at least ten terms related to learning and memory in the expert witness testimony. |
|  | Appropriately and accurately used terms related to learning and memory in the expert witness testimony. |
|  | Described why the two witnesses may have remembered different details about the robbery. |
|  | Responded to all reflection questions. |
|  | Used correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. |
| ***If you use resources outside of this course to complete this assignment, please submit a Works Cited document. If you need assistance, visit the Developmental Module for information on citing resources.*** | |
| **Included?** | **Item** |
|  | If resources outside of the course are used, a Works Cited document is submitted along with the assignment. |

**Reflection**

Take a moment to reflect on the following questions. Then respond to them in a brief four to five sentence paragraph.

* Describe a time when you remembered facts or events differently from someone else. Based on what you know about learning and memory, why do you think this happened?
* What type of learning most motivates you to continue doing something? Explain.