



LIST OF SUSPECTS

FORENSIC SCIENCE
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INTRODUCTION

- When police have a collection of suspect photos and mug shots, they rely largely on witness identification to collect evidence.
- In court, witnesses may testify as a form of evidence, for they are often confident of what the criminal's physical appearances were.
- However, relying on witness accounts of an event is not always accurate and false information can lead to a wrong conviction.



LINE UPS

- Line-ups involve known suspects standing in a line while a witness walks along the line and chooses those who they remember being responsible for the crime, based on memory of height and appearance.
- The witness is not visible to the suspects thanks to a reflective glass, which allows the witness to see through the glass, but only allows those on the other side to see a mirror reflection.



LINE UPS PROS AND CONS

- Effective method of identification if suspects are known, but when they are not known, another approach involving mug shots is taken.
- A witness peruses a series of mug shots of previous offenders to try and pick out a suspect, if one is present.
- The drawbacks to this method is mainly the fact that it's more suited to small communities, where there is a small enough number of offenders for a witness to view every mug shot.
- Also, as the witness is only viewing previously offending criminals, an incorrect choice can lead police to an innocent ex-offender.



OTHER WAYS OF PICTURING

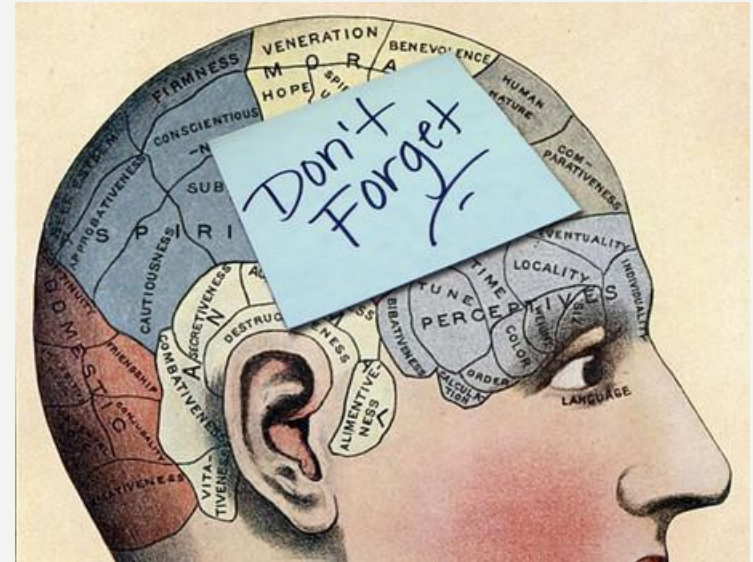


- If the above approaches are impractical or fail to reveal anything, police create a likely picture of an offender, based on eyewitness accounts.
- Using paint-by-number face composite computer programs, sketches, and photo composites, witnesses are able to choose appropriate facial hair, eye, skin and hair colour and facial build to create a picture that resembles who they witnessed.



LIMITATIONS

- All of the methods mentioned contain the same limitation, witness's memory.
- People often over-estimate their ability to recall a person's face and in the case of a violent or threatening attack, witnesses are often more busy focusing on the attacker's weapon than on there face of the attacker.
- In light of this, governments have brought in new legislation to tighten ID procedures and ensure that police concentrate on more solid forensic evidence.



SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

- Measures put in place to enhance what the human memory is not able to do, but it is not always as helpful as police would like it to be.
- The images taken on surveillance cameras are often tarnished and unclear, making the process of trying to match faces with those on screen very difficult.
- To make the matching of faces difficult to challenge in court, a process called photoanthropometry is used. This involves using a program that has the ability to measure the exact distance between features on a suspect's face on the video.
- This can then be used later to compare with facial features on a mug shot.





THANK YOU

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

