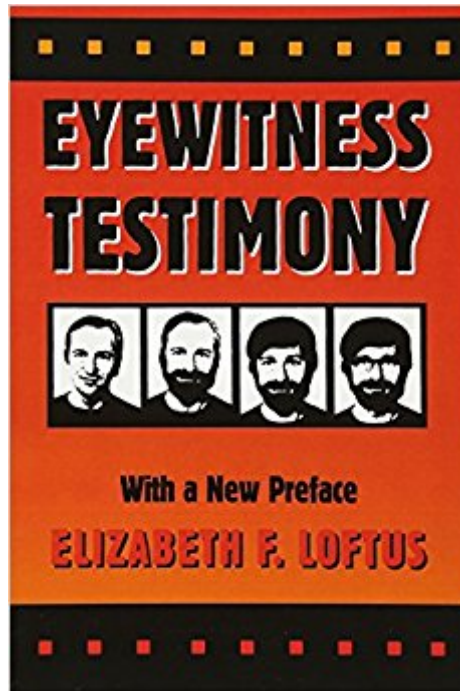




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Eyewitness Testimony: With A New Preface



Synopsis

Every year hundreds of defendants are convicted on little more than the say-so of a fellow citizen. Although psychologists have suspected for decades that an eyewitness can be highly unreliable, new evidence leaves no doubt that juries vastly overestimate the credibility of eyewitness accounts. It is a problem that the courts have yet to solve or face squarely. In *Eyewitness Testimony*, Elizabeth Loftus makes the psychological case against the eyewitness. Beginning with the basics of eyewitness fallibility, such as poor viewing conditions, brief exposure, and stress, Loftus moves to more subtle factors, such as expectations, biases, and personal stereotypes, all of which can intervene to create erroneous reports. Loftus also shows that eyewitness memory is chronically inaccurate in surprising ways. An ingenious series of experiments reveals that memory can be radically altered by the way an eyewitness is questioned after the fact. New memories can be implanted and old ones unconsciously altered under interrogation. These results have important implications for court reform, police interrogation methods, defense strategy, and many other aspects of criminal and civil procedure. *Eyewitness Testimony* is a powerful book that should be required reading for trial lawyers, social psychologists, and anyone who considers the chilling prospect of confronting an eyewitness accusation in a court of law.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An important book about a critical question. (New York Times Book Review) Loftus is a quiet, sincere, and reliable guide to this important research and its applications. (Times Higher Education Supplement)

As pertinent today as when it was first published more than a decade ago, this engaging and highly praised study makes the psychological case against the reliability of the eyewitness. By shedding light on the many factors that can intervene and create inaccurate testimony, Elizabeth Loftus illustrates how memory can be radically altered by the way an eyewitness is questioned, and how new memories can be implanted and old ones altered in subtle ways. She thus calls into question today's widely held assumption of eyewitness authority over the details of a crime or other events. Eyewitness Testimony provides a sobering counterpoint to today's theatrical reliance on eyewitness accounts in the media, and should be required reading for trial lawyers, psychologists, jurors, and anyone who considers the chilling prospect of confronting an eyewitness accusation in a court of law.

Bought this book for my daughter for a project she was working on and wound up reading it as well. Just a great read regarding the power - or lack of power - in eyewitness testimony and perception

Elisabeth Loftus describes several cases where the truth is "changed" by eyewitnesses and what consequences that had for innocent people who ended up behind bars. !

good book

Loftus's book is an excellent source for any memory and law questions that may arise. It is also extremely interesting for those who are new to the field. She talks all about mistaken identification due to eyewitness identification evidence. She is most definitely THE LEADING EXPERT in the field.

Loftus has written tons of new material since her original book. To market old information at a bargain price just because her latest book is so expensive and hard to get doesn't serve the consumer. But it was my fault for falling into the trap. I didn't understand at the time of my order how much more information is now available.

This book was good but only very basic in what I needed. I needed things on retention time and only got about a paragraph. very disappointing.

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