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**Two Separate Discussion Posts**

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## **Discussion Posts**

### **Eyewitness Testimony**

From a legal perspective, eyewitness testimony is a person's firsthand account of an occurrence they saw, usually a criminal event. A witness is a bystander or a victim who happened to be present when the circumstance under question transpired. If I am a defendant, I would not want my fate to hang on eyewitness testimony for several reasons. Eye witness testimony can be inaccurate because people see things differently, especially when they are far or only seeing an occurrence for a short period (Puddifoot, 2020). Also, due to personal biases, eyewitnesses can see features and characteristics that are unreal or events that never transpired.

According to Puddifoot (2020), the second issue with eyewitness testimony is that the police can sway them. When eyewitnesses are being questioned, the police can make indirect ideas to persuade an individual to identify a person improperly. For instance, the police can present lineups in a manner that misleads a witness to identify a person suspected of engaging in crime. Unfortunately, there are documented cases of police using such tactics to encourage a witness to identify a suspect or give a false account of what transpired (Singh, 2016). In such a case, I would not want my fate to hang in the hands of someone who is not honest to give an accurate account of what transpired.

Eyewitness testimony depends on people's memory, which is time-sensitive. Memories change with time; hence the details they recall as witnesses can also vary, which often leads to an improper account of what they witnessed. Aside from that, witness memory is also biased when an external agent uses trigger statements that can cloud their judgment on what transpired or, better still, a memory of the event in question. Research has also shown that retelling a story in an unbiased way rarely happens because human memory is prone to manipulation by the external

environment and people (Puddifoot, 2020). Often, personal accounts are described in a manner that is tailored for the listeners. That is why I would not want my fate in the criminal justice system to rest on the personal account of an eyewitness.

### **Reference**

- Puddifoot, K. (2020). Re-Evaluating the Credibility of Eyewitness Testimony: The Misinformation Effect and the Overcritical Juror. *Episteme*, 17(2), 255-279.
- Singh, M. (2016). In Eyes, We Trust: The Changing Landscape Of Eyewitness Testimony. *N. Ill. UL Rev.*, 37, 444.

### **How Much Is Too Much?**

Wealth is good because one gets to enjoy the finer things in life. I dare say that everyone wishes they were wealthy, which is why we envy individuals like Jeff Bezos, Jack Mah, Mark Zuckerberg, and Bill Gates. A wealthy individual also has an incentive to work hard to grow their wealth to give them financial freedom and security. These persons can purchase the finer things in life and use physical goods like money and luxury items to make them happy. Notably, these items can be simple things like a mobile phone, a watch, a suit, among others. According to Muñiz-Velázquez et al. (2017), materialism has bred a discontent society that has increased the number of unhappy people because material things are an illusion of happiness. Wealth and materialism have led to different social issues that have made individuals unhappier in their pursuit of wealth and artificial happiness via materialism. Besides, money is not happiness because it is the end of our goals and ambitions (Muñiz-Velázquez et al., 2017). This is the case with a majority of my friends who were born into richness. They get the best clothes, dine in fancy restaurants, and go to some of the most prestigious schools. However, what next? What is their inspiration since they already have money?

Growing up, I aspired to earn lots of money and acquire material goods like convertibles and mansions. After all, the media and my teachers said that these worldly things were worth working hard for, which I took seriously. That was the same for my friends, who had similar aspirations of being wealthy enough to acquire the finer things in life. After purchasing clothes and food from the mall, I felt happy. Nonetheless, this act of getting more materialistic things at a young age became a cycle, to a point where I realized that something was wrong with me. If indeed my acquisitions made me happy, why did I continue the trend of getting more? That is when I realized that wealth and material things do not result in contentment because there is always someone lacking and someone who will have more than I have.

### Reference

Muñiz-Velázquez, J. A., Gomez-Baya, D., & Lopez-Casquete, M. (2017). Implicit and Explicit Assessment of Materialism: Associations with Happiness and Depression. *Personality and Individual Differences, 116*, 123-132.

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