

# Extended written response: (9)

Although ~~memory~~ <sup>memories</sup> all humans fail to realize it, memories of the past often differ from reality. Memory, which is the ability to recall events from the past, is something that has been questioned for years. Furthermore, it has been found to be more inaccurate than many believe it to be. This conclusion, which can be supported by studies such as Loftus & Palmer (1974) and Allport & Postman (1947), is something that impacts us all; from average day life to trials in courtrooms.

Solid thesis w/ clear claim & reasons

In conclusion, though studies relating to memory, it can be found that memory is unreliable, and is often manipulated by outside factors such as ~~the~~ Culture and Social Interactions.

One study that could be used to support the claim that memory is commonly inaccurate, is the Allport & Postman (1947) study. This study hoped to determine how world views (or schemas) <sup>give more of a definition</sup> impact our recall of images. They did this by showing two groups of people (one black and one white) a picture of a white and black man arguing, where the white man was clearly the aggressor. They then asked the participants who the aggressor was. Through this they found that a majority of the white participants recalled the image incorrectly, saying that the black man was the aggressor. Meanwhile, the black participants recalled the image correctly, saying that the white man was the aggressor. This showed that our schemas, which are world views, can directly impact our memory, making us remember things how we feel they should be. Furthermore, this supports the claim that memory is unreliable because it shows how easily our memory can be manipulated, and changed, making it inaccurate, and different from reality.

You forget the telling stage that was involved here.

Nice ties back to the thesis.

One idea we must take into account when using this study, is the idea that the black participants could have been negatively impacted by their schemas as well. To explain, it is possible that just as the white participants schemas made them think the black man was the aggressor, the black participants could have automatically assumed the white man was the aggressor due to their schemas. This means that the findings could have been inaccurate, and more tests would have had to be performed. Furthermore, since many world views have now changed since 1947, it would be very difficult to replicate the results in order to support their findings. However, this does not mean the results were inaccurate in 1947, thus allowing the ability to use them as evidence in supporting the claim that memory is unreliable. - nice tie back to your claim

Another study that could support the claim that memory is unreliable is Loftus & Palmer (1974). This study aimed to determine the effect of leading questions on the recall of events. They achieved this by showing college age students video of a vehicular crash; they then proceeded to ask the students what speed the vehicles crashed into each other, replacing the word crashed with other phrases such as smashed, collided, etc. In doing this, they found that violent phrases such as smashed resulted in the students saying the vehicles were going faster than they were. This led to the conclusion that leading questions can impact our memory. This further supports our claim because it proves that events that are memories are unreliable. Furthermore, it shows that our memory can be manipulated and changed by outside factors such as interaction with other humans. To conclude, this study shows that memory is unreliable because it can be manipulated, and morphed

due to outside interaction.

One consideration that should be taken into account when using this study is the fact that only college age students were tested. Although this could have little impact on the results, it is possible that the college level age group could be more easily swayed by the leading questions. Furthermore, it is possible that the study was not ecologically valid, due to the fact that the participants only watched a video, instead of witnessing it in real life. To conclude, although both of these could impact the results, the findings are still valid as it is unlikely these considerations would effect the results.

To conclude, our memories are often unreliable as they can be easily manipulated by other, outside, factors that can be witnessed in <sup>studies such as</sup> Loftus & Palmer (1974) and Allport & Postman (1947). Both of which show the inaccuracy, and unreliability of memory. Proving that our memory often differs from reality, and that it truly is unreliable.

A very strong response. Nice job focusing on the prompt + providing highly relevant critical thinking.