What Influences Our Observations?

By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

1. Test your ability to make observations during events.
2. Understand that eyewitness accounts are never 100% correct.

Directions:

1. A commercial will be shown on the projector.
2. Your job is to pay attention to as many details as you can and be prepared to answer a series of questions regarding the commercial, such as: people, activities, objects, etc.

Questions:

1. How many people are in the video?

2. Describe the main character(s) in the commercial in terms of:
   a. Size
   b. Age
   c. Skin color
   d. Height
   e. Weight
   f. Hair: style, color, length
   g. Clothing
   h. Hat
   i. Glasses
   j. Distinguishing features
   k. Jewelry
   l. Beard or no beard
   m. Any physical limitations
3. Describe the other people in the commercial.

4. Describe the area where the video was located.

5. What furniture, if any, was in the commercial?

6. Was the time noted?

7. Was it possible to determine the season?

8. Were there any cars in the commercial? If so, describe the:
   a. Model
   b. Year
   c. Color
   d. License plate number

9. How long was the video?

10. Based on this activity, what have you learned about the accuracy of eye witness accounts?