

## **False Memory**

All answers should be clearly identified (i.e. which question you are responding to) and must be typed. If you choose to do this lab, please hand in a paper copy on the day of the first exam, along with your other chosen lab assignment.

### **Section One**

Please answer all of the following questions

1. What is the difference between distractors that are “special” and those that are “not special”?
2. Do you think there are any ways that we can help to protect ourselves from false memories?
3. Based on your experience of the word lists and the distractors, suggest a reason why these false memories occur.
4. Look at the group results for each of three measures: mean percent of items presented in the sequence, non-special distractors not presented in the sequence, and special distractors not presented in the sequence. Decide if the false memory effect is confirmed.

### **Section Two**

Please choose two of the three questions to answer.

1. Discuss the implications of this demonstration on claims about remembered past sexual abuse.
2. Discuss the idea that most of our memories must be fairly accurate or living would be quite difficult.
3. Discuss the implications of the fact that we can be very certain about having a memory even though it is a false one.

## Group Data for False Memory

Data summary

Data summary for experiment False memory Jun 17, 2003 12:58:38 PM

Percentage of recalls from possible choices. You should find that the percentage of time you select the special distractors is larger than the percentage for other distractors and is smaller than the percentage for correct selections.

Results are based on data from 12 participants.

Type of selected items Percentage of recalls

In original list 76.98412

Normal distractor (not in list) 3.4722223

Special distractor (not in list) 79.166664