

MEMORY UNIT

ENGL 846 AM

Instructor: Kathleen de Azevedo Feinblum

Spring 2014

Contents:

- Prompt for Paper #3 - Memory
- Quiz questions for “Lost in the Mall” (OSB); “Quieting the Mind” (OSB); and “Memory, Inc.” (OSB);
- Critical Response #3 for “Repressed Memory: Real or Fantasy”. Essay is on Web Access.

MAJOR ESSAY #3 – MEMORY – ENGL 846 – S 14

Readings: “Lost in the Mall” (OSB); “Quieting the Mind” (OSB); “Memory, Inc.” (OSB); and “Repressed Memory: Real or Fantasy” (WA). You may use ideas from previous readings but the emphasis for this paper are the readings in this unit.

Due dates: 3/20 R Outline; 3/25 T first draft; 4/10 Final Draft

Choose one of the three prompts:

Option #1

Should “recovered memories” be allowed as evidence in a criminal case? To build your argument, I want you to “extract” the ideas/information from the readings for this unit. In this essay, be sure to carefully consider the evidence on all sides regarding whether traumatic memories can really be “repressed” and then “recovered” years later or whether recovered memories are corroborated. If you argue that recovered memories should be used in some court cases, be sure to discuss things you think courts can do who safeguard against the limitations of memory. Look at the chart on page 469 in back of “Repressed Memory” to see how different states deal with this issue.

Option #2:

B.F. Skinner argues that the idea of free will is an American myth. He says that we may think that we choose our own actions based on our own individual feelings and beliefs, but that instead, everything we do is “conditioned” by the rewards and punishments of our external environments. In this way, he argues, we are just like the animals in his experiments, who were conditioned to press levers, play ping pong and perform other actions.

Do you accept Skinner’s argument? Why or why not?

In building your own argument, I want you to do a little background research on the meaning of “free will.” Along with readings from this unit, you may want to consider the evidence in Rat Park. Do we have free will to use substances like drugs/alcohol, or are our actions “conditioned”? Does the Milgram experiment seem to support “free will” or “conditioning” as the source of our actions? How about Darley and Latané’s experiments) seizure experiment, smoke experiment – free will, conditioning, a little of both?

Option #3:

Conduct your own “Lost in the Mall” memory experiment, except use an experience from your past (not one that is made up). For this option to work, the memory should be traumatic yet have taken place enough in the past to have lost some of its immediacy. (So if you are uncomfortable with the memory, I wouldn’t choose this prompt). The event needs to have been remembered by you and at least one other person and this person (or people) must have been either a key player or witnesses to the event. The criteria is as follows:

1. Jot down your recollection of the event.

2. Interview your subject as to what they recall of the event. If you are using several subjects, interview them separately. Do not discuss or give them suggestions. Take down what they say.
3. Analyze the differences in the recollection. Is it due to A) age or personality differences? B) The different relationship to the experience? C) Did your memory change once you interviewed the other person involved? D) Did memory change due to your maturity, a better understanding? Why or why not?
4. You must use the unit readings to analyze the event. You cannot just write a personal narrative.

Things to Shoot For:

- * Show that you have read the texts from this unit, and that you have fully digested and considered the different viewpoints and evidence. *You may use another source or two but not in lieu of the readings.*
- * Show you are really thinking about the topic - these are complex questions, so don't settle for easy answers. And don't feel that you have to take an either-or position. Option #3 is more autonomous so you need to commit to the experiment.
- * Write so that someone not in our class could understand it. Assume your audience has not read these texts. That means you'll need to briefly summarize key ideas and explain unfamiliar terms.
- * Paraphrase, quote and cite skillfully as taught in the previous unit.

READING QUIZ #4

Readings: "Lost in the Mall" (OSB); "Quieting the Mind" (OSB); "Memory, Inc" (OSB)

Due: 3/6 R

"Quieting the Mind":

1. According to psychologist Leon Festinger, why did members of the Sananda cult do so many media interviews after the flood prophesy did not come true?
2. Explain the "cognitive dissonance" Slater experiences when she sees oil running down the statue's face at the Santos' home.
3. Slater writes that Linda Santos is "a walking talking epitome of rationalization" (118). Explain what she means by this, using details from the chapter.
4. Slater summarizes Festinger's research like this: "We spend our lives paying attention only to information that is constant with our beliefs, we surround ourselves with people who will support our beliefs and we ignore contradictory information that might cause us to question what we have built" (121). Explain this quote in your own words with an example from the chapter.

"Lost in the Mall"

5. Summarize the "Lost in the Mall" experiment and its major finding.
6. Explain how Paul Ingram's story connects to Loftus' point that memory is "suggestible."
7. Explain Loftus' view on whether "repression" exists and how she uses the Holocaust and plane crash survivors to support this point of view.

"Memory Inc."

8. Karl Langley theorized that memory had no central location in the brain. How did Dr. Scovill, Brenda Milner and Eric Kandel each challenge the theory? In other words, what was their major finding?
9. Why was Kandel's CREB theory so significant?
10. Why are memory drugs so controversial?

CRITICAL RESPONSE #4: Please type all responses

Reading: “Repressed Memory: Real or Fantasy?” by F. Robert Radel II and Julie Anne Simonsen

Due: 3/11 T

This is an academic paper, but not a difficult one. The essay offers ideas which should supplement what you already know about memory. Instead of me giving you questions, basically I want you to supply both questions and answers. I would like this assignment *typed*. Bullet points are ok as long as they are complete and clear sentences.

1. Present at least 5 ideas which appear in “Repressed Memory” but which don’t appear in other readings for this unit.
2. Present at least 5 ideas which appear in “Repressed Memory” which complement (which are alike) the readings for this unit.
3. Look at the chart on statues of limitations in the back of the essay. Explain the chart.
4. Pose 3 questions you would like to ask the authors.

The answers can be bullet pointed in complete sentences. The homework must be typed.

.....

SCHEDULE FOR MEMORY UNIT

2/27 R	Outline, intro paragraph, PIE paragraph with quote	Work on outlines. Sentence work/ predication. MLA
3/4 T	No class – at a conference. Just work on a good first draft.	
3/6 R	DUE: First Draft of Paper #2 (Obedience and Cruelty)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer Group• Editing and Proofreading• Introduce next unit
3/11 T	DUE: QUIZ #4: “Lost in the Mall” (OSB) “Quieting the Mind” (OSB) “Memory Inc.” (OSB) <i>Papers will be handed back this day.</i>	Discuss legal aspects of Recovered Memory in court cases
3/13 R	DUE: Critical Response #3 “Repressed Memory, Real or Fantasy” Prompt on unit sheet; essay on web Access	Questioning strategies and argumentation
3/18 T	DUE: Final Paper #2	<i>First half: MIDTERM – Room 2117B</i>

	(Obedience and Cruelty)	<i>Second half:</i> Paper set up – we can stay in the computer room.
3/20 R	DUE: Outline of Paper #3 (Memory)	Transitions, concessions leading to Opponents arguments
3/25 T	First Draft of Paper #3 (Memory)	Peer Group and Sentences
3/27 R	You will get first draft back this day.	Work on Paper Loose ends
March 31-April 4 – Spring Break		
4/8 T	QUIZ #5: The last unit has not been planned yet. But here is the quiz question: All of the pieces we have read so far have to do with assumptions which have been challenged by others. Your last paper will be examining the assumptions of a demographic which can be/ or has been challenged. I would like you to read the essays due on this day, and for each essay, indicate what the assumptions were about a given group of children and what Bronson and Merryman say which challenge these assumptions. The quiz is open book, like always.	Readings for Research “Why Parents Don’t Talk about Race” (NS) “The Lost Hour” (NS) “Search for Intelligent Life” (NS) “Myth of the Supertrait” (NS) “Insane in Sane Places” (OSB)
4/10 R	Final Draft of Paper #3	Intro to research – brainstorm ideas from readings.