

**Eyewitnesses**

# See what you notice...

- Whodunnit? Use your observation skills.  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W92tDI4RYCw>)

# When Eyes Deceive

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSzPn9rsPcY>)

# The Ugly Facts

- A study in 1988 estimated 77,000 individuals were arrested each year on the basis of eyewitness testimony
- Various studies have found 45-52% of cases involved mistaken eyewitness identification

# 60 Minutes on Eyewitness

## Testimony

([https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8kv2zgAE39tiE0WqBwu0Xp0MXPSLiFfG&feature=mh\\_lolz](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8kv2zgAE39tiE0WqBwu0Xp0MXPSLiFfG&feature=mh_lolz))

# Why is so much emphasis placed on eyewitness testimony?

- The eyewitnesses are typically everyday people, just like the jurors
- The eyewitness testimony is usually in everyday language
- The eyewitness account is most often the most “theatrical”/interesting part of the trial

# So What can be done...

- The police can:
  - Interview as soon as possible
  - Minimize distractions
  - No pressure
  - Open-ended questions, not leading
  - Encourage mentally going back to event
  - Observe non-verbals
  - Encourage future contact
  - Discourage contact with other witnesses and media