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Have You Been Persuaded?

This experiment's purpose was to discover how negative peer pressure affects the youth mind during consequential moments of eyewitness testimony. Its hypothesis was if students are exposed to negative peer pressure when giving eyewitness testimony, then their answers and decisions will alter and be very similar to that of the peer pressure because of the psychological wish to conform. The independent variable is the presence of peer pressure and was changed by exposing participants to it as well as not. The dependent variable is the percentage of answers correct per question. In this test, the constant variables are the questions asked, the video that is shown, area test is completed in, and students applying peer pressure. The averaged results show that without peer pressure students are 46.13% correct and with peer pressure are 28.63% correct. The hypothesis was accepted because the data shows that question accuracy lessens an average of 17.5% when participants are exposed to peer pressure rather than when they are not. The overall conclusion is that incorrect peer pressure does affect eyewitness testimony negatively by a margin of slightly less than 20%. Although in serious cases this could make a substantial difference, because the average accuracy is only 46.13%, this difference is not huge. This information is beneficial on a larger scale because it provides data that could be used in a courtroom on whether or not youth eyewitness testimony is accurate when the witness has been exposed to negative peer pressure.