

Eyewitness Testimony Slides

Slide 1: True or False? Eyewitness testimony is the best kind of evidence in a trial.

Popular Culture



<https://www.newsweek.com/2014/11/28/end-eyewitness-testimonies-285414.html>

A lineup that led to a false conviction



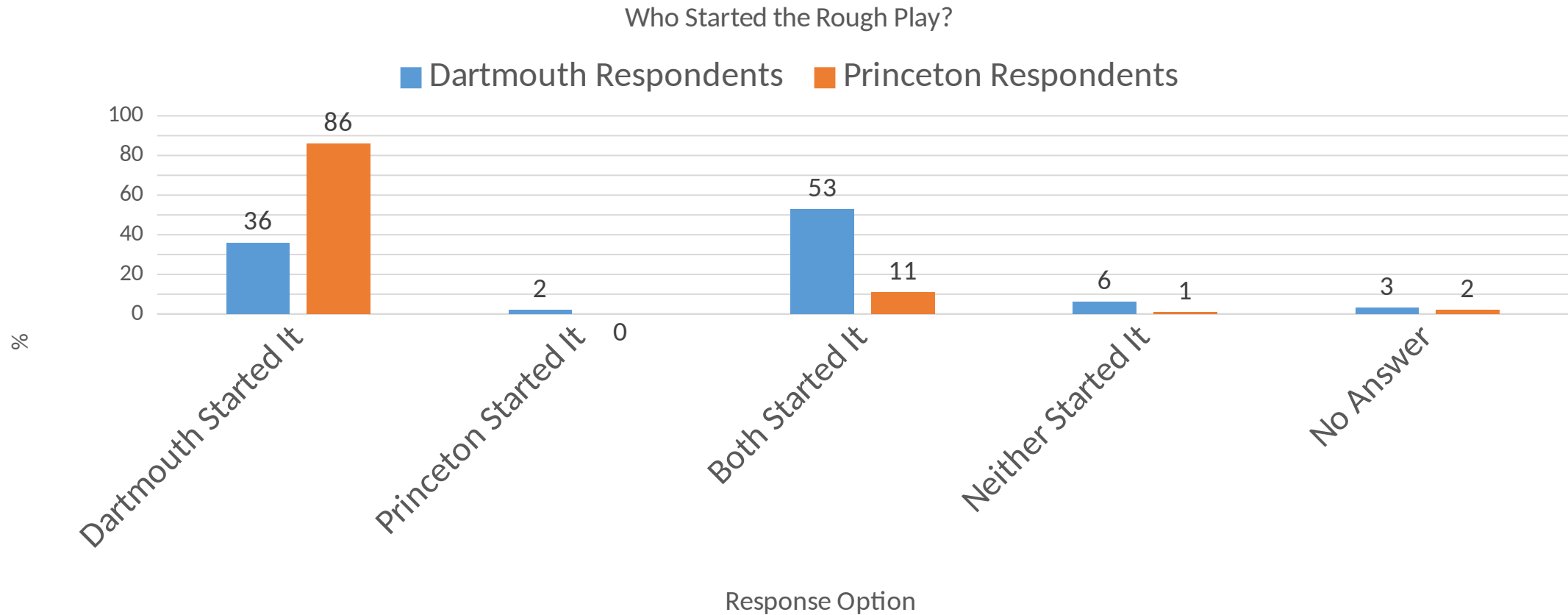
http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/features/2011/getting_it_wrong_convicting_the_innocent/how_eyewitnesses_can_send_innocents_to_jail.html

Slide 2: “They Saw a Game”

Hastorf & Cantril (1954)

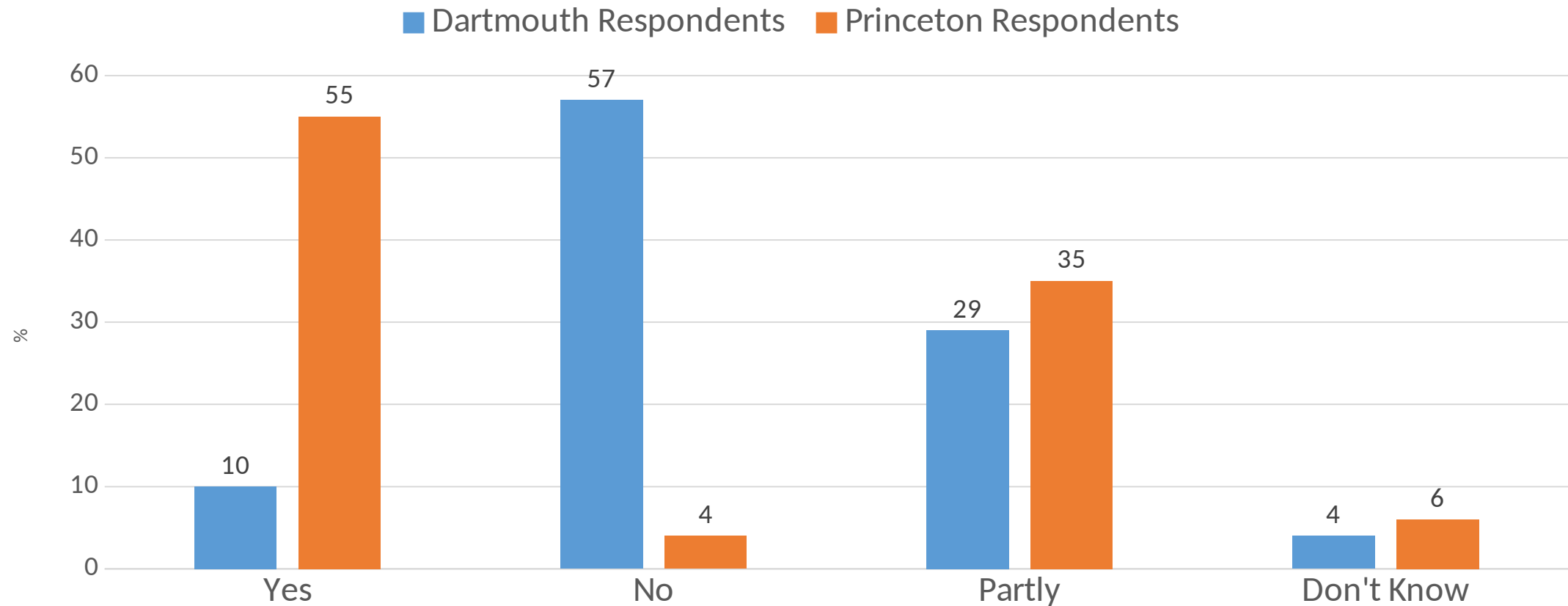
- On November 23, 1951, Dartmouth played Princeton in a highly anticipated game
 - It was the last game of the season for both teams
 - Princeton was undefeated
 - Princeton’s star player, Dick Kazmaier, was playing his last game. He was an All-American, was on the cover of Time magazine, and won the Hesiman Trophy
- The game quickly got rough and physical
 - Kazmaier had his nose broken and had to leave the game in the second quarter
 - A Dartmouth player suffered a broken leg in the third quarter
- After the game, two psychologists polled students at both schools who had seen the game about the rough play

Slide 3: Who Started the Rough Play?



Slide 4: Do you think there is truth to the charges that Dartmouth intentionally played dirty football? (paraphrased)

Do you think there is truth to the charges that Dartmouth intentionally played dirty football? (paraphrased)



Slide 5: Memory and the Accuracy of Eyewitness Testimony

- The assumption that memory provides an accurate recording of experience, much like a video camera, is not correct.
- Memory evolved to give us a personal sense of identity and to guide our actions.
 - We are biased to notice and exaggerate some experiences and to minimize or overlook others.
- Memory is active and malleable
- Think of remembering as a process, not static memories you store and retrieve

Slide 7: Myth vs. Reality

- Myth: Eyewitness testimony is the best kind of evidence in a trial.
- Reality: Memory is subject to unconscious memory distortions and biases even among the most confident of witnesses.

Slide 8: Concept Map of Memory

