National Geographic – Brain Games – Remember This

One thing that really caught my attention in this video was when the memory world champion Ron White started talking about serial numbers on dollar bills and memorizing them. This segment fascinated me because I have always had a strong correlation with numbers and have always been able to memorize them pretty easily. One example of me doing this would be me memorizing car license plates in my neighborhood. I grew up in the same neighborhood I currently live in, and I know most of the people who live near me. I don’t know why, but when I was younger I would watch cars drive down my street and I would look at their license plate then see who was driving the car. Before long, I generated a list of numbers and letters in my head of all my neighbors’ license plates and could recite them out loud if somebody asked me. I didn’t think too much of this, but when I started telling my friends what their parents license plate numbers were I began to realize that what I was doing was quite unusual. I believe that what Ron was doing with the ladies’ dollar bills was similar to what I was doing with the license plate numbers.

I was astonished at the end of the video when the witnesses of the crime at the beginning all said they would testify in court when they all had some sort of false memory. I also felt like I had a clear memory of the crime scene and I was confident with what I remembered. But, even some of my memory was distorted and altered. A few things I got wrong were the color of the woman’s hat (she wasn’t wearing one), the object that was stolen (I thought it was a digital camera but it was some kind of wallet), and I falsely identified the suspect in the lineup (I thought it was number five).

At last, one thing I enjoyed about this video was how it teaches you how to improve your memory. One technique Ron introduced was correlating certain objects with faces or numbers so you can more easily remember them in order. Ron does this throughout most of the film and then asks the viewer to try it at the end. When asked to memorize the first six cards of the deck, I assigned my family members to individual cards. For instance, the ace of spades was the first card so I put my brother named Austin first on that card. The next card was the king of diamonds, so I assigned my dad to that card because his name is Carey. I put him on that card because Carey can also be spelled Kerry. I did this with each of the cards, and when they were revealed in order it was the exact same as it was in my head. I enjoyed this video because it was interesting and fun, and it teaches you something at the same time.