Picking Cotton
Book Review

Objective:

To appraise the purpose and impact of this book applying memory research

Week 5 Due Dates: Students must upload the completed Book Review in the Dropbox and post initial discussion in their Group Discussion by 11:59pm Friday. Discussions will close at 11:59pm Sunday.

Format

A completed book review should be between 2-3 pages and must be posted in the Dropbox as either RTF, DOC or DOCX, or PDF. Any other format will not be accepted and receive a zero.

Any book review less than 500 words will receive a zero score!

This project requires students to read the book "Picking Cotton" by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino, Ronald Cotton, and Erin Tornino (2010), submit a written book review in the Dropbox (30 points), and participate in an on-going discussion about this book with other students in D2L (20 points). Students should also be sure to read Chapter 6 in the textbook.

This book can be read in hard copy, electronically, or via audio-book. There is no requirement to purchase this book, which is also available through the ARC Library.

To complete this book review students must address each of the questions chronologically:

Summary

- *What is the book's objective?*
- *What are the main points of the book?*
- *Did the author(s) effectively support the book's objective?*

Analysis

- *How does this book relate to theories and concepts from this class?*
- *Does this book support or contradict psychological theories you've been learning about?*
- *If applicable, do you have any criticisms of the research methods used in this book?*
- *Did you enjoy reading this book? How did it contribute to your understanding of the concepts presented in this class?*
- *Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?*

College level writing is expected, which includes proper use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Failure to submit a college level book review will result in an automatic zero.

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Book Discussion Instructions

You are also expected to discuss the book with you classmates, evaluating the book in the context of the concepts and theories that correspond with the lesson of the week, or throughout the semester. Do not simply re-post your completed book review in these discussions. Instead you should identify what you saw as the key learning moments in the book, form opinions, or draw conclusions about the concepts that are being explored. Simply expressing your opinions or drawing conclusions will not maximize points unless those opinions are supported by objective evidence and are logical; to accomplish this you will need to appropriately cite your sources as you discuss them.

Direct Quotations

Each submission should be written in your own words; no more than 10% of a submission should be quoted material. If you submit a book review with more than 10% quoted material you will be penalized a point for each percentage above the 10%. If your submission has more than 30% quoted material you will receive an automatic zero score. *Citations are not direct quotations.*

APA Citations

You are expected to demonstrate understanding of the rules of plagiarism and use APA citations, which include in-text citations and full citations in each submission. You are expected to use at least 3 unique resources for each submission; you will be *penalized 2 points* for each missing resource. If your submission has no citations you will receive an automatic zero score. Links on plagiarism and APA format are provided in the Resources link in D2L.

Tips to Maximize Points

Apply concepts and theories. Anytime you are asked to post an analysis in a project you will be scored on your demonstrated understanding of the concepts you've learned as they relate to the topics you are discussing. Therefore to maximize points you should discuss concepts that were presented in the lesson(s) and apply them accurately in the discussion. You are not expected to apply all of the concepts but you will be scored on how well you explain the ones that you focus on. Avoid posting spontaneous, simplistic, judgmental, or common sense responses.

Stay actively engaged. You should be sure to pick projects that you find interested because you will feel compelled to engage in discussion with your group. If you are regularly participating in the process you will be creating opportunities to earn points by applying the concepts and theories you are learning about. There is no formula for how many times you have to post, however as a general rule it would be impossible to maximize points if you have only posted one time.

Pay attention to the deadlines. There are several deadlines throughout the week so pay close attention to them. Although the Friday deadlines do allow for late submissions by Sunday (with a 5 point penalty), there are no late submission for Sunday deadlines.

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Grading Rubric

This project is worth 50 points based on completion of a written book review and participation in the class discussion. You will be evaluated using the following criteria; a complete Book Review Rubric is posted in the Weekly Schedule:

- Followed instructions
- Clear expression of ideas
- Applied concepts and theories from the curriculum
- Active engagement in the discussion
- Positive contributions to the process of learning