

The culture of memory

Researchers are discovering that our culture helps shape how we remember our past--and how far back our memory stretches.

Memory and the Influence of Culture

Click on this link <http://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/2008/03/wang.aspx> to read about a socio-cultural perspective regarding our earliest childhood memories. Given that our memories provide us with an enduring sense of self and help shape the people we become, it seems natural that we might be curious as to when those memories begin.

The above link is taken from an article from the APA website that looks into the research about cultural differences for when memories begin. As you read the article, think about your own earliest memory and how this research might apply in your own situation.

In a 3-5 page paper, address the following questions using (and citing when appropriate) information from the article, or your textbook:

- What is your earliest memory, and how old were you at the time?
- Think about how you have managed to retain this memory. Is it an event that you have frequently recounted? What role does language play in our encoding of early memories?
- How do earliest memories from Asian cultures differ from earliest memories from American or European cultures? What reasons do researchers propose account for these differences?
- What did researchers discover regarding the difference in age of earliest memories with regard to culture?
- Explain how prior attitudes (attitudes about gender roles, individualism vs. collectivism, emotions) affect our encoding and recall of information.