

Knowers & Knowing

Personal Access to Knowledge
TOK L6



To what extent does what we know stay known? How is knowledge lost?

Knowing and Memory

- *Implicit procedural memories* (So, you know how to tie a shoe? Explain it , then.)
- *Transient memories* (“Use it or lose it!”)
- *Persistent memories* (associated with depression and PTSD)
- *Hyperthymesia* (“It’s all about me!”)
- *Absent-Mindedness* (inattentiveness that leads to memory loss)
- *Blocking* (“It’s on the tip of my tongue...”)
- *Misattribution* (Have you ever heard of Plagiarism?)

Does our picture of reality correspond to the real world?



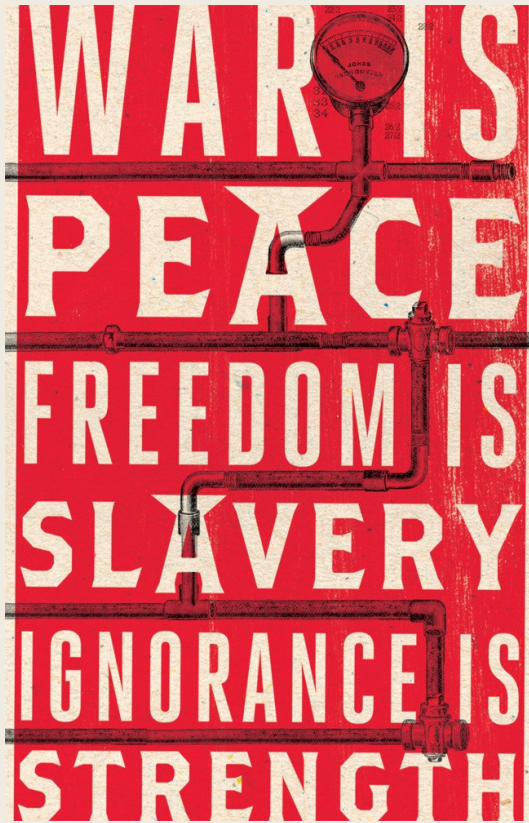
The Power of Suggestion

- Loftus & Palmer, 1974
- Yuille & Cutshall, 1986

Misrepresentation

- *Ambiguity*: when a word, statement, image or situation can have more than one meaning or interpretation
- *Vagueness*: when something is not clear or has no distinct boundaries, is imprecise, and defies exact definition





- *Given our own problems of perception & memory, and the limitations of language to communicate knowledge, how can you decide which information to trust?*
- **HW:** Select a current news story for which multiple sources are easily found, and look for elements of vagueness, ambiguity, or other tricks of language in any one of them, that might be intentionally misleading. Check the facts, if you can, by accessing the information from other sources. In the end, what do you believe, and why? Are you more confused, or more certain, of what you know about this event?