Memory Terms Answer Sheet

Spontaneous Memory-This is an "on the spot" memory. These are developed from experiences an individual has, often remembered because some emotional response was connected to it, giving it significance in the individual's life. *Example: A student may remember what she was wearing the first day of high school.*

Intentional Memory-This is a rehearsed memory, one that an individual person decides ahead of time to remember. It may or may not be something someone directly experienced. *Example: Students may be asked to remember the sequence of events that led to the attack on Fort Sumter.*

Autobiographical Memory-This is an individual's representation of their own past. Autobiographical memory is affected by age, emotion and time distance from when the memory took place. *Example: Students may remember when the first person they loved died.*

Collective Memory-This is a memory shared by a group of people. This can be a spontaneous or intentional memory. *Example: A class may remember the speech at their graduation.*

Flashbulb Memory-This is a memory that is remembered in great detail; often one of great national importance because of the significance or tragedy of the event. Flashbulb memories are remembered in most details by those who experienced the event, but even those who were not there remember where they were or what they were doing when the event occurred. *Example: A student may remember watching the morning news when the saw the first plane hit the World Trade Center on 9/11. Not only do they remember that often as a photographic image, but they very well may be able to tell you what cereal he/she was eating, what she/he was wearing, where he/she was sitting, and certainly what she/he were feeling at that moment.*

Sources: http://cbest.web.wesleyan.edu/pia2_spring2000_004.htm; www.dictionary.com ; www.reference.com; http://www.uic.edu/classes/comm/comm200am/teamprojects/MemoryTechnologies/Collective_Memory.htm

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