

## **Extra Credit Paper over Memento**

Always lost in a world far from reality is the life that Leonard Shelly lives, however to him life with anterograde amnesia is his reality. Memento accurately describes the effects of having anterograde amnesia, the inability to form new memories, which Leonard Shelly suffers from due to the trauma he received after what he remembers as his wife being raped and murdered. The film throws you for a loop when at the end you find out that she was not actually murdered, rather the thought of Sammy was actually him when his wife died from an insulin-overdosed induced diabetic coma. The movie really helped me grasp anterograde amnesia beyond the simple definition of the inability to form new memories but what day-to-day life is for individuals who suffer from anterograde amnesia. The consistent need to write notes to remind yourself of past learned, but after the amnesia started, information is one idea I never really thought of even when shown in class examples of Clive Wearing. While Clive suffered from both anterograde and retrograde amnesia, I believe the film was a better means to really grasp the course material we've learned so far.

While you watch the film you're continually trying to actively fill in the holes of the story as you watch, a unique idea that the director has used in other films since such as Inception. One of the most powerful scenes is when Leonard is recalling the story of when Sammys' wife was testing Sammy to see if he really was faking it or not to finally get closure with his diagnosis. After each insulin shot that Sammys' wife has Sammy give, for a total of three times, she rolls back her

watch to see if Sammy will give her the shot she needs to survive with her diabetes and time and time again he gives her the shot due to his inability to encode into long term memory that he just gave her the shot. The symptoms of anterograde amnesia, in the severe case that Sammy demonstrates, is incredibly powerful at making the audience understand the level of detriment those with anterograde amnesia live with. As a member of the audience you're given a very insightful view in how it also affects those around the ones who have the disorder; in the case of Memento it dramatizes it the death of the lover. While Memento may dramatize anterograde amnesia a bit too far I believe it accurately reflects for the most part the day-to-day lives for those who live with it. Leonard Shelly truly is lost in a world far from reality.