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### The Invisible Gorilla Chaps. 5 & 6

In Chapter 5, the author(s) say "At times, we perceive patterns where none exist, and we misperceive them where they do exist" (Chabris and Simmons 154). This passage perfectly describes the illusion of cause. Humans have excellent pattern recognition abilities, but those abilities can sometimes fail us. We often recognize patterns that are not there, and therefore assume that certain associations are correlated, even though they are not.

Also in Chapter 5, the author(s) voice "But the only way — let us repeat, the only way — to definitively test whether an association is causal is to run an experiment" (Chabris and Simmons 161). This excerpt reveals the sole method to combat the illusion of cause. Either find out if the association has been experimented upon before and proven correlated, or experiment on it yourself. Otherwise, you cannot be sure that the association that you are thinking of is a real correlation and not a random event.

In Chapter 6, the author(s) describe "The illusion of potential leads us to think that vast reservoirs of untapped mental ability exist in our brains, just waiting to be accessed — if only we knew how" (Chabris and Simmons 186). This section captures the essence of the illusion of potential. Some people think that there is some easy way, or some trick, to become smarter. The author(s) mention the Mozart Effect, where parents thought that playing Mozart would make their babies smarter, and the Lumosity lawsuit, where the Lumosity company claimed that playing its games would delay age-related cognitive impairment, as good examples of the

illusion of potential. But this common belief is completely untrue; there is no simple way to gain intelligence - it takes hard work and dedication.

Works Cited

Chabris, Christopher and Simmons, Daniel. *The Invisible Gorilla: How Our Intuitions Deceive Us*. New York: Broadway Paperbacks, 2009.