

**Joseph Banks Secondary College**  
**Year 12 Psychology**  
**Assessment Task 2 – Investigation 1**

**Investigation: Do Mnemonic Devices Improve Memory?**  
***Information letter***

Dear Student,

As part of this unit on psychology, you will be examining whether mnemonic devices improve memory. Specifically, you will investigate the impact of narrative chaining on your ability to recall a number of words.

Participants in this investigation will carry out both conditions in order to counterbalance order effects in a repeated measures design.

- *Control group*: recalling 10 words through maintenance rehearsal (rote learning).
- *Experimental group*: recalling 10 words through elaborative rehearsal (mnemonic device = narrative chain).

Participants' ability to recall these words will be tested after 3 minutes of rehearsal and a 1 minute distractor task. The data collection for this investigation will take place during regular class time.

To safeguard anonymity, students' written responses will be identified by a code number and all individual student data will be shredded at the completion of the unit.

Please ask me if you do not fully understand the information provided or if you would like further information. In understanding, what is required of you as a participant in this investigation, you may choose to consent to participate fully in this investigation, in some part of this investigation or not at all. If you decide to participate, please read, complete and sign the attached consent form.

Your parent or guardian must also provide consent for your participation in this investigation. If they agree, please ask them to also sign the provided consent form.

Even if you have signed the consent form, you may withdraw from this investigation at any time. There will be no consequences if you do not want to participate, or if you initially agree to participate and later decide to withdraw. Your rights and responsibilities are detailed in the consent form.

Please feel free to speak with me if you have any concerns or queries about this investigation or about your involvement in this investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Sarah Davey  
Psychology Teacher

**Joseph Banks Secondary College**  
**Year 12 ATAR Psychology**  
**Unit 3 – Assessment Task 2 – Investigation 1**

**Investigation: Factors influencing the retrieval of information from the working memory**

***Informed Consent Form***

Participant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigation title: Factors impacting the retrieval of information from the working memory

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

I consent to participate in the research investigation named above. The nature of the research, including the procedures, has been explained to me, and is summarised on the information letter I have been given

I give permission for the responsible teacher, named above, to use the outlined investigation procedures with me.

I understand that:

- (a) I am free to withdraw from the investigation at any time. There will be no consequences if I decline to participate or if I initially agree to participate, but later decide to withdraw.
- (b) The investigation is for the purpose of teaching and learning.
- (c) The confidentiality of the information I provide will be safeguarded. Written responses will be identified only by a code number in order to ensure that responses are anonymous.
- (d) There are no known adverse effects of participation in this investigation.
- (e) I will maintain the confidentiality of other participants in this investigation.

**Please return this signed consent form to your teacher.**

**Signed:** .....  
(student)

**Date:** .....

**Students may participate in this investigation only if a parent or guardian completes the following section.**

I consent to the participation of ..... in the above research investigation.

**Signed:** .....  
(parent/guardian)

**Date:** .....