

**APPENDIX A
LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT**



Inspiring Innovation and Discovery

SONA Study Number

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Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of this experiment is to explore basic perceptual processing mechanisms.

Procedures involved in the Research:

In this experiment you will complete a perceptual estimating task. This task involves observing a clock hand rotate and estimating where the hand is either when you press the spacebar or hear an auditory tone (more detailed instructions will be provided at the start of the experiment). You will estimate by simply typing the number you think the clock hand pointing to during those events (there will be a prompt). You will do this a number of times and, overall, will take about 20-25min to complete. Afterwards, you will be given a link to complete a questionnaire (5-10min).

Potential Harms, Risks or Discomforts:

If the experimenter running you through this study is, or has been, your TA and/or Prof, please know that no negative consequences will occur (i.e., lower grades, no monetary compensation, no credits) if you choose not to participate in the current study. There is also a chance of becoming bored or feel fatigued towards the end of the experiment. Potential feelings of boredom and/or fatigue are normal and should be temporary.

You may feel embarrassed by answering one or more of the questions on the questionnaire. You are free to skip any and all questions you do not wish to answer on the self-report scales. No negative consequences will occur (you will still get your credit(s) and be informed about the purpose of the study).

There is an increased risk of a data breach given that this is an online study (compared to in-person). Also note that if you are using a computer in a public space or at home, then there is a chance that someone in your vicinity could see their responses on the screen, hear your responses if you are using audio, or someone in the household who shares the computer could access your responses. Please take appropriate precautions (e.g., complete the study in a private place and clearing their web browser history upon completion).

Potential Benefits

While there are no direct benefits to you of taking part in this experiment (other than learning more about the research topic), the results of this study will provide a better understanding of perceptual and sensory processes.

Payment or Reimbursement

You will receive 1 credit for participating in this study.

Confidentiality

In order to give you the SONA credit, we must ask you to input your MacID at the end of the experiment. However, to help protect your identity in case of a data breach, your MacID will be saved on a different file (separate from your results). Furthermore, only members of the research team will have access to the full dataset, and the data itself will be saved securely on McMaster's servers. However, note that there is always a chance of a data breach with online studies, so please take this into consideration when signing up for this study.

Participation and Withdrawal

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the study at any point by closing the browser. In this event, any data we have collected from you will be destroyed. Your decision whether or not to be part of the study will not affect your participation in future research studies conducted by the researchers or in the department.

Information about the Study Results:

If you would like a brief summary of the results to be sent to you once the study is completed, please indicate this and provide your email at the end of the study. We will then be able to email you with a summary of the results once they are available. Sometimes studies are cancelled part-way through, if you do not hear from us by December 2020, please email the experimenter.

Questions about the Study: If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact me at: galangc@mcmaster.ca

This study has been reviewed by the McMaster University Research Ethics Board and received ethics clearance. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Secretariat
Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142
C/o Research Office for Administrative Development and Support
E-mail: ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca