



Letter of Information

Categorization and Cognitive Performance

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You are invited to participate in a study being conducted by Stephen Van Hedger, an undergraduate student supervised by Dr. Irene Cheung. This study seeks to understand how simple category judgments may influence your ability to perform cognitive tasks. You are being invited to participate because you responded to an advertisement for this study.

About the Study:

The purpose of this study is to understand how cognitive performance may be influenced by simple category judgments (e.g., determining whether a presented picture contains an animal or not). The goal of this study is to assess whether brief interventions, such as category judgment tasks, can improve an individual's cognitive performance in the short term. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to perform a simple category judgment task (5 minutes), complete a short assessment of mood (5 minutes), complete a cognitive assessment that involves remembering sequences of spoken letters (10 minutes), and complete a short questionnaire that collects basic demographic variables and asks for your feedback about aspects of the study (5 minutes). For the questionnaires, you will have the ability to skip any question you do not feel comfortable answering. This study will take about 25 minutes in total. The study is web-based (i.e., will be conducted online).

To be eligible to participate, you must have a stable, high-speed internet connection. You must also be in a relatively quiet environment, free from distractions. Headphones are recommended but not required.



Important Information Related to Your Participation:

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide not to be in this study. Even if you consent to participate you have the right to not answer individual questions or to withdraw from the study at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the study before completion, your data will be automatically discarded and not sent to our data server. After you complete the study, requests to withdraw your data from the study will be handled on a case-by-case basis. This is because the study does not collect any personally identifiable information. As such, the researchers will make their best efforts to locate and remove your data from the study if you choose, though the researchers cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

You do not waive any legal right by signing the attached consent form. Your participation in this study does not require you in any way to participate in any future research at Huron University College or at Western University. On the consent form, you also have the option to opt-in to be contacted for future research studies related to the current study.

Confidentiality:

We will not collect personally identifiable information as a part of this research study. Anonymous study records will be maintained indefinitely. Anonymous study records will be stored on password-protected servers and will also be made available through a secure, online repository (Open Science Framework), allowing other researchers to access the data. The data uploaded to Open Science Framework will use arbitrary alphanumeric strings to differentiate participants. Data that is presented at scientific conferences or in peer-reviewed publications will aggregate data at the group level. While we will do our best to protect your information there is no guarantee that we will be able to do so. Representatives of Huron's Research Ethics Board may contact you or require access to your study-related records to monitor the conduct of the research.



Risks, Costs and Benefits to You:



There are no known or anticipated risks or discomforts associated with participating in this study.

There are no costs associated with your participation in the study. You will be compensated \$5 for your participation in the study.

You may not directly benefit from participating in this study, but information gathered may enhance the scientific understanding of how humans are able improve their cognitive performance in the short term, which has potential implications for improving daily functioning in general.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions about this research study or would like to learn more about the study, please contact either Stephen Van Hedger (undergraduate researcher; svanhedg@uwo.ca) or Dr. Irene Cheung (Principal Investigator: icheung5@huron.uwo.ca)

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study you may contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Board at Huron University College by emailing huronreb@uwo.ca.

Thank you for your time and interest in this research project.

This letter is yours to keep for future reference.