FMRI script

Thanks for coming to participate in our experiment. Your job is going to be pretty easy today. All that you’re going have to do is tell me what food you like. You’re going to do that in three different tasks. The first one is going to be here, the second one is going to be in the scanner, and the final one will be after you come out of the scanner; we’ll explain the details of each task just before you do it.   
  
For this first task . . . you may have noticed this deck of cards I’m holding. See how each card has a picture of a different food on it? Well our goal for this first task is to get all of these cards on the desk in order from your most favorite to your least favorite. I actually have sandwich with each of these snacks in them in the room over there, and depending on the choices you make today, you’re actually going to get one of those snack bags. So the question I’d like you to ask yourself is “what snack would I like to have *right now?*” Let start with these two . . . which would you rather have *right now*? X or Y? Pay attention to both the food on the card, and how much food is on the card, because if that’s the snack you end-up getting, that’s exactly how much of that snack you will get. So which would you rather have right now?

Ok. So let’s put this one here and that one there. And now, what about this option, ‘Z’? How much would you like to have ‘Z’ *right now*? More then ‘X’, less then ‘y’ or do you like ‘X’ more then this but like it more then ‘y’?

Ok so lets put it here. That means that you like it more than this but not more then that. Is that right?   
  
OK what about ‘Q’? Where would you like to put that? So by putting it there, you are saying, I like it more than this but less than that. Is that right?

OK, what about ‘R’? and ‘S’? ect

That’s all of the options for this first part. Why don’t you take a look at your ranking and see if there’s anything you’d like to move around. There’s nothing wrong with changing your mind. I just want to make sure that you end up with a ranking that you’re really happy with.

You happy with your ranking? Ok, can you please help me flip the cards over? There are nombers written on the back, they don’t mean anything special, it’s just easier for me to read out loud for Calvin to write down.   
  
Can you help me flip them back over, and spread them out the length of the table?

Now we’re going to add some more options to your ranking. For example, this option is ‘X’, and ‘Y’ together. How much would you like to have a baggy with both ‘X’ and ‘Y’ together *right now*? Where would you put that in your ranking? Ok, so by putting it there, your saying that if I brought out a bag with ‘X’ and ‘Y’ and a bag of ‘Z’ you’d rather have the bag of with ‘X’ and ‘Y’? And you’d rather have a bag of ‘Q’, if I brought it out, to a bag of ‘X’ and ‘Y’, is that right?

This one is ‘A’ and ‘B’. How much would you like to have that *right now*? Where would you put that in your ranking? Ok, so by putting it there, your saying that you’d rather have the bag with ‘X’ and ‘Y’ over the bag of ‘Z’, but you’d rather have a bag of ‘Q’ to a bag of ‘X’ and ‘Y’, is that right?

[after 10 bundled/scaled options] How about you take a moment to look over your ranking and see if there’s anything you’d like to move around? You can move any of the options even the single options. Again, there’s nothing wrong with moving things around. All we’re trying to do is make sure that we have your favorite ranking. [space out the options while the subject rearranges them]

[after 20 bundled/scaled options] How about you take an other moment to look over your ranking and see if there’s anything you’d like to move around? [space out the options while the subject rearranges them]

[after 30 bundled/scaled options] How about you take an other moment to look over your ranking and see if there’s anything you’d like to move around? [space out the options while the subject rearranges them]

[after 40 bundled/scaled options] Ok, so that’s all of the options. Why don’t you take one last opportunity to arrange your ranking and move around anything you want?

Now Niree is going to explain what will happen next.

This next part of the experiment is going to take place in the MRI. Have you ever been in an MRI before? It’s nothing to be afraid of, there’s no radiation, it’s just a big magnet that we use to take pictures of your brain. Sometimes we’ll take pictures while you aren’t doing anything, and sometimes well take pictures while you’re making choices.

Like Dalton said, you’ll still be telling us what snack food you’d rather have right now. Except this time it will be between two options. One of those options will be the same for the whole time you’re in the scanner, and we’ll tell you what that option is before we start the scan. For now, lets pretend that that option is a banana. When you’re in there, you’ll be laying on your back, looking up at a mirror, which will be showing you a computer screen. On that screen, you’ll see something like this.  
  
If you saw this, it would mean that the question is, “would you like to have a banana or an apple and a lemon?” You answer by pressing a button in hands. You’ll have two buttons in your left hand and two buttons in your right hand. It doesn’t matter which button you use in each hand, so we’ll just say that you have a left hand button and a right hand button.

These circles at the bottom tell you what each button means. The hollow white circle always means, “I want the on-screen option” [in this case, that’s the apple and the lemon] and the solid black circle means, “I wan the off-screen option” [in this case that’s the banana]. The buttons switch left and right at random, so some times the button in your right hand means “on-screen” and some times it means “off-screen”. So if you saw this on the screen, and you wanted the banana, which button would you press?

Ok, and why is that the one you’d press?

Great!

Any questions?  
  
One more thing I’ll add is that in order for us to get a good picture of your brain, you need to hold still in there. So when we’re getting you set-up, make sure that you’re comfortable!

[Between each run], quiz them on what the different circles mean and what their off-screen option is.