

# Tactile TTS Audio Learning Study

Please scroll down. This is an informed consent document which you must acknowledge before beginning the study.

You are invited to take part in a research study being conducted by David Sweeney, a researcher from Texas A&M University. This information is provided to help you decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to acknowledge your agreement to participate. If you decide you do not want to participate, there will be no penalty to you, and you will not lose any benefits you normally would have.

## Why Is This Study Being Done?

The purpose of this study is to learn about audio comprehension and learner traits that can effect comprehension.

## Why Am I Being Asked To Be In This Study?

You are being asked to be in this study because you are currently a student enrolled in Political Science 207 at Texas A&M University.

## How Many People Will Be Asked To Be In This Study?

About 1500 people will be invited to participate in this study locally, although not all will participate.

## Are there Alternatives to being in this study?

Yes, the alternative to being in the study is not to participate.

## What Will I Be Asked To Do?

You will be asked to answer a series of questions about your learning preferences as they relate to the study of Political Science. When you complete the questions, you will be presented an audio text excerpt from the book Comparing the States and Communities: Politics, Government, & Policy in the United States by Harvey J. Tucker and Norman R. Luttbeg. Once the text is complete, you will be asked to answer some questions about the text you just heard. Your participation in this study will last up to 45 minutes. Once you answer the second set of questions, you are done with the study.

## Will Photos, Video or Audio Recordings Be Made Of Me during the Study?

No, but your interaction with the application will be recorded and reported to the researcher. This includes how you interact with the audio text.

## Are There Any Risks To Me?

The things that you will be doing are no more than risks you would come across in everyday life. Since the study asks questions about your learning strategies, you could feel discomfort at being asked these questions. Since the study asks questions about your understanding of the text, you could feel discouraged or anxious about your answers. Your responses will

be coded with a random identifier, so there is no risk of identification from a breach of confidentiality of your answers. If you choose to sign up for the prize drawing (detailed below), your email address will be collected, but not associated with your answers. This piece of identifying information will be separated from your answers when the study is complete. Otherwise, the researcher will not know your identity.

### **Are There Any Benefits To Me?**

This study will present audio information from a common Political Science textbook used at Texas A&M University for Political Science 207 courses. This could be beneficial to you as a student.

### **Will There Be Any Costs To Me?**

Aside from your time, there are no costs for taking part in the study.

### **Will I Be Paid To Be In This Study?**

You will not be paid for being in this study. However, if you opt to enter the drawing, you will be asked to submit your email address. Two participants will be selected at random at the conclusion of the study to receive a \$100 gift card.

### **Will Information From This Study Be Kept Private?**

The individual records of this study will be kept private. No identifiers linking you to this study will be included in any sort of report that might be published. Research records will be stored securely and only the researcher will have access to the records.

Information about you will be stored in encrypted computer files protected with a password. This consent form will be filed securely in an official area. People who have access to your information include the Principal Investigator and research study personnel. Representatives of regulatory agencies such as the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) and entities such as the Texas A&M University Human Subjects Protection Program may access your records to make sure the study is being run correctly and that information is collected properly.

Information about you related to this study will be kept confidential to the extent permitted or required by law.

### **Who may I Contact for More Information?**

You may contact the Principal Investigator, David Sweeney, to tell him about a concern or complaint about this research at 979-492-9598 or via email at [sweeney@tamu.edu](mailto:sweeney@tamu.edu). You may also contact the Protocol Director, Susan Pedersen at 979-845-1128 or [spedersen@tamu.edu](mailto:spedersen@tamu.edu).

For questions about your rights as a research participant, to provide input regarding research, or if you have questions, complaints, or concerns about the research, you may call the Texas A&M University Human Subjects Protection Program office by phone at 1-979-458-4067, toll free at 1-855-795-8636, or by email at [irb@tamu.edu](mailto:irb@tamu.edu).

### **What if I Change My Mind About Participating?**

This research is voluntary and you have the choice whether or not to be in this research study. You may decide to not begin, or to stop participating at any time. If you choose not to be in this study or stop being in the study, there will be no effect on your student status, medical care, employment, evaluation, relationship with Texas A&M University, etc.

## STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I agree to be in this study and know that I am not giving up any legal rights by acknowledging this form. The procedures, risks, and benefits have been explained to me, and my questions have been answered. I know that new information about this research study will be provided to me as it becomes available and that the researcher will tell me if I must be removed from the study. I can ask more questions if I want by contacting the researcher as noted above, and I can still receive services if I stop participating in this study.

This informed consent document can be viewed any time by stopping and restarting the application.

**To acknowledge your informed consent, click the arrow below. If you do not wish to participate, simply close the application.**