**Project title**

The effect of body posture on a visualization task: test of gravitational/environmental frame of reference

**Significance**

The purpose of this study is to test the effect of body posture on visual processing. Calviano, Petrone, and Levine (1987) demonstrated an environmental frame of reference for visualization in their study with stroke patients who demonstrated visual neglect. This study applies the body posture concept to healthy adults during a standard visualization. We hypothesize that when participants lay on their right side during task visualization, the environmental frame of reference will produce left-to-right visualization (which correlates to gravity’s top-to-bottom processing), but we hypothesize that when participants lay on their left side during task visualization, right-to-left visualization will occur to align with gravity’s top-to-bottom processing.

**Proposed Procedures**

Participants will be instructed via a YouTube video to lie on either their right side or their left side, and then perform a visualization task. “Picture two basketball players facing each other about to pass a basketball between them. The ball is passed from one player to the other. Which player passed the ball, the one on the right or the one on the left?” Participants will be asked to record their answer and their condition assignment and submit the results in one of two ways. They may comment directly on the YouTube video (publicly) or email the primary researcher (who will protect the participant’s identity).

**Number of Required Participants**

This experiment requires 24 minimum participants with a goal of 36 or more.

**Participant Recruitment**

Participants will be recruited through a pool of psychology undergraduate students as well as through public invitation to participate on Facebook and YouTube.

**Exclusion Criteria**

This experiment will exclude participants under the age of 18, and persons with an inability to voluntarily change their posture. Participants will also be excluded for an inability to understand the language of the instructions.

**Potential Risks**

Potential risks for this study are minimal and include normal risks associated with a sudden change of posture (e.g. nausea or dizziness). Participants might also become disturbed by the visualization if it triggers a traumatic memory, but this is true of any cognition task. Finally, there is risk of exposure to identity through a third-party observer during submission of results, but this is true of most online interactions.

**Compensation**

Participants recruited through the undergraduate program will receive extra-credit compensation, but participants who volunteer through social media sites will not be offered compensation.

**Protecting Anonymity/Confidentiality**

Participants will be warned about the risks of submitting their responses through the various ways. If participants submit their response publicly on Facebook or YouTube, no confidentiality can be offered. If the participants email the researcher, the researcher will save the message in an encrypted folder and delete the original message to protect identity.

**Use of Results**

This research is part of the investigators capstone project and will follow with a poster that displays the findings of whether body posture affects visual cognition. If the findings are significant, they may be written up for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

**Debriefing**

After viewing the YouTube video, participants will be directed to a link that provides debriefing information. The debriefing will contain the purpose and true nature of the study, contact information for the researcher, and contact information to the Chair of Eastern Oregon University’s IRB should they feel their rights have been violated.

References

APA Style References

**Informed Consent for BODY POSTURE’S EFFECT ON VISUALIZATION**

**Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this study is to determine how body posture affects visualization

**Methods of Study**

If you choose to participate in this experiment you will watch two videos on YouTube. The first video will be instructions. The second video will be the experiment. You will be asked to change your posture to a standardized (common and fairly comfortable) position. Then you will be asked to visualize a specific task. You will then be asked a question about your visualization. You will submit your responses either publicly on social media (no anonymity) or via email to [kstrother@eou.edu](mailto:kstrother@eou.edu), who will be the only one to know your identity.

**Criteria to Participate**

You must be 18 or older to participate and have the ability to read English fluently. You must have no history of neurological disorders or visual deficits.

**Risks & Benefits of Participating**

The risks associated with this experiment are minimal and include any risks that occur when you watch a short-film, including boredom, or the risks that come from changing posture, such as dizziness. The most important risk is that to your identity. To mitigate that risk, it is recommended you email your responses to the researcher who will encrypt the data and delete the original message. There are significant potential benefits to students, faculty, the University, and the scientific community associated with participating in this project. Research participants will gain a firsthand understanding of what the scientific process involving human research is like. Participation will also enable the researchers to contribute to scientific understanding of human behavior which can bring prestige to the researchers, the University, and increase the value of degrees issued from Eastern Oregon University.

**Your Rights & Responsibilities**

You have the right to be informed of the nature of the study, its methods, and the potential risks and benefits of participating in the study. You have the right to participate voluntarily and the freedom to withdraw from the study for any reason. You also have the right to be protected from harm and have your identities protected. To ensure your privacy, this consent form will be separated from your results and stored securely. You also have the right to learn more about this study and to contact the proper authorities (see below) should you have concerns about this study.

You have the responsibility to participate to the best of your ability if you choose to participate and are eligible for this study. This responsibility to participate to the best of your ability does not override your rights to withdraw from the study.

**Who To Contact**

If you are interested in learning more about this study or have questions you can contact this study’s primary investigator: kstrother@eou.edu. If you believe that any of your rights have been violated, you should contact the Chair of the University’s Institutional Review Board: Charles Lyons at clyons@eou.edu.

**Agreement**

By signing below I affirm that I am 18 or older and that I understand the basic purpose and methods of this study, the risks and benefits associated with participating in this study, my rights and responsibilities as a research participant. I also affirm that I have had the opportunity to ask questions related to my participation in this study. Finally, I consent to participate in this study and I provide this consent voluntarily.

Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like a copy of this form for your personal records, please inform the researcher.