

Information and Consent to Participate in Research

Study Title

Reading Development as a Pathway to International Student Success: A Targeted Reading Intervention on EAP Program Students at Mohawk College

Researchers

- Dr. Daniel Schmidtke - Principal Investigator - Research Fellow at College Student Success Innovation Centre (CSSIC), Mohawk College; Research Associate, McMaster University
- Andrea Johnson – General Manager for the Centre for Emerging Research Initiatives, IDEAWORKS, Mohawk College
- Stefania Kyriakidou - Research Assistant, McMaster University

Sponsoring Organizations

CSSIC Research Fellowship (Mohawk College)

What is this letter about?

You are being invited to take part in a study. First, we need to ask you for your consent to participate. This is a consent letter. If you have any difficulty understanding this letter, please ask the tester for help. The tester can get someone to help translate this letter. The tester can also use Google Translate to help translate this letter. We will provide you with a PDF copy of this letter.

About the study

We would like to know about how language support will help learners of English develop their English reading skills. To do this, we would like to measure your reading skills and examine how this relates to your academic data. This data will help our research by contributing to ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and effectiveness of academic programming.

What will happen during the study?

We will start by asking you to fill out a questionnaire. The questionnaire will ask you which hand you use when you write, if you wear glasses or have any vision loss and if you have any reading impairments in your first language. You will then be asked to silently (in your head) read some stories and passages of text on a computer screen. We will ask some questions so that we can see how much of the stories you understood. When you are reading, an eye tracker (a small camera on the computer) will take a video record of your eye movements when you read. This will help us to see which parts of the passage were most difficult to read.

Then you will be asked a series of questions about some of your English reading skills. These questions will help us learn more about your spelling, sound, word and vocabulary knowledge. These tests will require you to answer out loud, write with pen and paper or type on a computer.

How long will the study take?

The study will take no longer than 2 hours to complete. You will be offered breaks, and you can take as many breaks as you need.

What happens afterwards?

This is a two-part study. This means that we will invite you back to participate at the end of this term.

What other information will we request?

We are also requesting permission to access the scores from the English language tests you did before starting your studies at Mohawk College. This includes your EAP placement test scores and your pre-admission placement test scores (for example, your IELTS scores). We are also requesting permission to access your EAP grades and your future grades for the remainder of your studies at Mohawk College (including if you study in a post-secondary program after the EAP program). You can still participate in the study without giving permission to access this other information.

Incentives

1. Honorarium in recognition of the time and effort required to participate

If you complete both the pre-test at the beginning of the term **and** the post-test at the end of term, **you will receive \$100**. If you only complete one of the tests (either the pre-test or the post-test), **you will receive \$50**. You will receive this honorarium at the end of the semester (even if you did one or both tests). The honorarium will be provided through a ONE card.

2. Letter of recognition

You will receive an official Letter of Recognition signed by the Principal Investigator of this research study and the Senior Director, Academic Initiatives & College Student Success Innovation Centre (CSSIC).

3. Food and beverages

Refreshments will be provided prior to and after taking part in the study.

Request for consent (permission)

To participate in the study, we first need your consent (permission). Please review this letter. At the bottom of the page, you will see some options. To participate in this study, please select "Yes, I consent...". If you do not want to participate in this study, select "No, I do not consent...". You may also indicate if you do not want your English language test scores and grades being used. Your consent is for both testing sessions (now and at the end of the semester).

Possible risks and discomforts of the study

There are no known harms or risks in using eye-tracking technology. You will have no physical contact with the equipment at any time. The camera in the eye-tracking system uses an infrared lamp, which is invisible. This light is very safe.

You will be asked to sit still and be focused for some time. A head support may be used to help you if you get tired and cannot keep your head still. Keeping your head still is important to get an accurate measurement of your eye movements.

Finally, you may feel upset or worried about your level of performance in the tests. We assure you that your best effort is always sufficient.

If you do not feel comfortable, you may withdraw from the study at any time (see below).

Potential benefits to you

There are no direct benefits to you, but you will be helping researchers understand how they can help improve how English learners can become better readers.

How your data is stored (Confidentiality)

All your test results (data) will be used for research purposes and will be **de-identified**. 'De-identified' means that there will be NO personal information (no names, no student numbers, etc.) attached to the results (data). Your data will be securely stored only with a research code. Your deidentified language test data, i.e., only the data collected in the study session, may be hosted on a publicly accessible website, so that other researchers can access the data.

No publication or discussion of this study will contain any personal and/or identifying information. We may openly share your de-identified language data (not including program grades and placement test scores) with other researchers outside of Mohawk College and McMaster University. This data may be made publicly available and will be hosted online on Open Science Framework. We may also publish the data as part of a scientific report: in either case, we will not provide information that will make it possible to identify you personally. As requested by the federal Tri-Council funding agencies and policies, we will retain your data for at least 5 years. Once out of active use, the electronic data will be archived on a secure server in the McMaster University research lab.

The research team will require you to provide your Mohawk College email address so that we can link your data in the first session to the data in the second session. This will also be used to link your data to the English language test scores and program grades (if you give your permission to do so). Once collected, all project data will be coded to ensure protection of privacy. All research reporting will be presented at a general level so no analysis reveals the identity of any single individual.

Participation and Withdrawal

Your participation in this study is voluntary. This means that you do not have to take part. If you no longer want to be part of the study, you can stop (withdraw) for whatever reason. You do not have to return for the second part of the study at the end of the semester.

If you withdraw, you will not need to give any reason for the decision, there won't be any consequences, and your data will be destroyed immediately unless you indicate otherwise.

You can withdraw even after signing the consent form or during the study. There will be an opportunity to take part again in a second session at the end of the semester, you can withdraw up until six weeks after participating in the second session (post-test). After six weeks, your de-identified data may be part of a scientific report. This means your data will not be able to be completely removed from the study, but, for up to 5 years after the submission date, you may still request that your data be deleted.

If you withdraw, you will also still receive an honorarium for the time you participated (\$50 if you did one session or \$100 if you did both sessions). If you want to remove your data from the study after participating, please email Dr. Daniel Schmidtke at schmiddf@mcmaster.ca

How do I find out what was learned in this study?

A summary of the results of the study will be made available on the CSSIC website page. <https://www.mohawkcollege.ca/college-student-success-innovation-centre/> . This page will contain a summary of the results and any links to published scientific articles.

Questions about the Study

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Mohawk College Research Ethics Board (MCREB) and the McMaster Research Ethics Board (MREB). MREB #7105.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact Dr. Daniel Schmidtke, CSSIC Research Fellow at schmiddf@mcmaster.ca

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact:

Mohawk College Research Ethics Board (MCREB),

Email: reb.coordinator@mohawkcollege.ca, Telephone: 905-540-4247 ext. 20304

McMaster Research Ethics (MREB) Office

E-mail: mreb@mcmaster.ca, Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142