ONLINE CONSENT FORM FOR RESEARCH

Validate a Quantitative Measure of Expressive Writing

You are invited to be in a research study to validate a quantitative measure of expressive writing and understand its health benefits. You were selected as a possible participant because you indicated that you were an adult author or co-author actively journaling on a CaringBridge site. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

This study is being conducted by Haiwei Ma and Svetlana Yarosh at the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Minnesota in collaboration with CaringBridge.

**Procedures:**

The study lasts for 31 days and has three parts.

1. You will be redirected to a 15-minute pre-study survey to provide your contact, demographic, and psychophysical information (assessed by psychology instruments), after you consent to participate.

2. For the next 31 days, you need to allow researchers to follow your CaringBridge site and send you survey requests via email or SMS text based on your preference. Each time you publish a journal update on CaringBridge, you will be asked to fill in a brief (1 minute) survey regarding your thoughts.

3. On the 31st day, you will be asked to complete a 10-minute post-study survey regarding your psychophysical state. You will also be given the opportunity to receive a $15 Amazon Digital gift card and the opportunity to receive the study results when published in around June, 2022. You can learn more details about the study at <https://haiweima.github.io/Research/>.

**Confidentiality:**

The records of this study will be kept private. In any sort of report we might publish, we will not include any information that will make it possible to identify a subject. Research records will be stored securely and only researchers will have access to the records.

**Voluntary Nature of the Study:**

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the University of Minnesota or CaringBridge. You may discontinue participation at any time. Your decision to discontinue participation will not affect your current or future relations with the University of Minnesota or CaringBridge.

**Potential Risks:**

Since some survey questions are related to your psychophysical states, the primary risk associated with participation may be difficult or challenging emotions that arise during the course of answering questions.

**Potential Benefits:**

You may feel a sense of contribution to helping the community and advancing the science.

**Contacts and Questions:**

The researchers conducting this study are: Haiwei Ma and Svetlana Yarosh. You are encouraged to contact Haiwei Ma by emailing to maxxx979@umn.edu or texting 651-239-6957 if you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about the research now or later.

This research has been reviewed and approved by an IRB within the Human Research Protections Program (HRPP). To share feedback privately with the HRPP about your research experience, call the Research Participants’ Advocate Line at 612-625-1650 (Toll Free: 1-888-224-8636) or go to [z.umn.edu/participants](https://research.umn.edu/units/hrpp/research-participants/questions-concerns). You are encouraged to contact the HRPP if:

● Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.

● You cannot reach the research team.

● You want to talk to someone besides the research team.

● You have questions about your rights as a research participant.

● You want to get information or provide input about this research.