

User-testing



User testing Object

The New School's Dormitory 'Rocking' Study Chair

Background

The New School has provided students who live in their dormitories a study chair accompanied with study desks. Its hind legs are designed as a 'rocking chair' gimmick, which came to my attention when one fine day I leaned back and collapsed. I realized the irony of a poorly designed chair by a reputable design school.

Target Audience

- Students aged between 16 - 35
- Students who live in The New School's dormitories (Kerrey Hall, 13th Street Residence, Stuyvesant Town, and Loeb Hall)
- People who spend most of their time sitting at a desk

Purpose + Scope

The purpose of this user testing is to evaluate the functionality and user-friendliness of the study 'rocking' chair. Collecting this data will provide:

- Behavioral observations and insights into the current human habits sitting on a chair
- Insights into design solutions on how to improve the 'sitting' experience
- Baseline information on the current experience that can be used as a comparison for future furniture design catered for students residing in dormitories

User-testing



Kacey Chang
20 years old

Parsons Fashion Student
Lived in a dormitory for 2 years



Tammy Lian
22 years old

Design+Technology Student
Lived in a dormitory for 6 months

Task Scenario

1. Complete that time intensive 10 page paper that is due tomorrow morning.
2. Stretch your body and relax in between, because you deserve it.

Methodology: Research Questions

Number of Hours Spent – For how many hours do you find yourself using the chair and desk to complete the task?

Personal Interaction – What are the common sitting positions while focusing on the task? How often do you fidget?

Functionality – How does the chair structure support your ability to accomplish the task? Did you find it at a comfortable inclination to support your back?

Ease and Comfort – Is the design of the chair convenient for you to switch from studying to relaxing mode? Eg. When you lean back, do you find yourself in a relaxed position, or a fear of falling?

Outcomes: Answers

Number of Hours Spent – 4-10 hours

Personal Interaction – [K] I fidget a lot while working. [T] I cross my legs while seated, sometimes I lean back.

Functionality – [K] I realize that I get uncomfortable sitting on the chair, I prefer using the table and chair in the kitchen area because all four legs of the chair are grounded. It is also at a more comfortable height. [T] I do my work in short intervals, so the chair was a basic sitting furniture to help me get the job done.

Ease and Comfort – [K] There are a few occasions where I lean back and I feel myself falling back. It's a bad design and I don't understand why it was designed that way! [T] Sometimes I stretch and lean back but I do it slowly, because my roommate leaned back once and fell down!