

Participant Information Sheet

Project title:
Overcoming Writer's Block with Mobile App

Invitation paragraph

I would like to invite you to take part in my final year project research. Participation is voluntary but much appreciated. I would like you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it would involve for you. Please ask me any questions regarding the project.

What is the purpose of the project?

This project is for my Computer Science BSc final year thesis. The aim for this project is to find out how technology such as a mobile application can aid people, in this case, to overcome writer's block. In detail, it is to find out the causes of writer's block based on participant suggestions and online research, as well as ways to overcome it and boost motivation for writers.

Why have I been invited to participate?

Participants were originally going to be recruited from the University of Bristol's Poetry and Creative Writing Club. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, direct demonstration would be hard. Therefore, any participants who are my acquaintances would get to participate, whether they are writers or not, since the idea behind the mobile app isn't just about writing, but also a rewarding mini collection game.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether you wish to participate in the project. I will describe the study and go through this information sheet with you before you participate and answer any questions you might have. If you agree to take part, I will then ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason.

Data gathered will be anonymised, and as my thesis is needed to be submitted before the end of May, the cut-off date for withdrawal will be ideally the 1st of May.

What will happen to me if I take part and what will I have to do?

Participants will be linked a google drive and an evaluation form. The google drive consists of the APK file and the PC version of the word tracking application. Participants are asked to download either the APK file to their mobile phones, or the PC version to their Desktop. Participants can then take their time to try out the application, preferably for a few minutes in a day. Then, participants can fill out the evaluation form to review the app. The data used in this case will only be the review ratings, the comparison in word counts, and opinions regarding the app.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks involved in taking part in the project?

There will be no risks.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Participants may keep the app for personal uses if wish to do so, as the app is a mini character collection game, participants are free to use the app until they collect all the characters and continue to record their word count to their liking.

Will my participation in this project be kept confidential?

You should tell the participant the measures that you will take to keep their participation and any data that you gather through their participation confidential, during and after the study.

Here, the participant should be told:

- Data will be collected from the evaluation forms.
 - Data will be stored electronically in an Excel sheet.
 - All data will be anonymised, and only the project supervisor shall gain access to it.
- All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential, and there will be no personal information to identify you through the evaluation forms. Data will be stored securely on my University of Bristol file store. Data will be tightly secured after I have graduated.*

What will happen to the results of the research project?

Results of the research will only be used and explained in my thesis and will not be published anywhere else. Results will not be made available to anyone else besides the project supervisor.

No participants will be identified as a named individual in any report or publication.

Who is organising and funding the research?

Department of Computer Science, Computer Science BSc

Who has reviewed the study?

Dr Simon Lock of the Computer Science Department and the Faculty Research Ethics Committee.

Further information and contact details

Contact details:

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If participants have any concerns related to your participation in this study, please direct them to the Faculty of Engineering Research Ethics Committee, via the Research Governance Team, research-governance@bristol.ac.uk