Choice Alone:

Choice, Motivation, and Performance

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Hypothesis

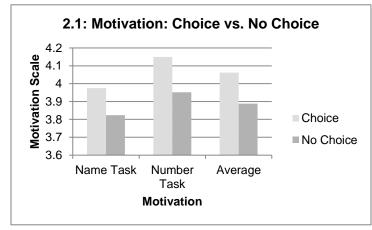
If individuals are offered a simple choice about the order in which they complete two tasks, then they will be more motivated to complete the tasks and perform better overall.

Method

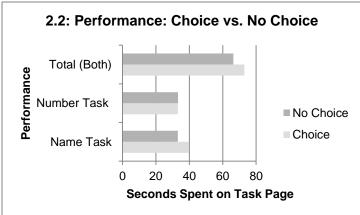
A roughly 50 person convenience sample will complete two simple sorting tasks, and a follow-up survey online. Half of the participants were randomly assigned to a choice condition in which they chose which task to complete first. The control group (no-choice condition) was randomly assigned to complete the two tasks in a random order. Each participant completed a name-sorting and a number-sorting task. We timed each task and asked participants to complete a brief survey about their motivation after both tasks.

Findings

Overall Trends in Motivation and Performance for Choice and No-Choice Conditions



Overall, participants in the choice condition had higher average motivation for each task and on average. However, the differences in motivation between the choice and no-choice group were not statistically significant.



Participants in the experimental choice condition overall performed worse than participants in the no-choice condition. They spent more time completing each task and more time total. However, the differences in performance between the two groups were not statistically significant.