

Boston College Department of Psychology
Informed Consent to be in Study:
Online studies of memory and cognition
Research: Maureen Ritchey, Ph.D.

Please read the following information carefully before deciding whether to participate in this experiment.

You are being asked to be in a research study of human memory and cognition and how these processes are implemented in the brain because you are an adult over the age of 18.

The purpose of this study is to investigate how you process, learn, or remember information. To do so, we have developed behavioral tasks that test different cognitive processes by measuring decisions that you make and how long it takes to make them.

If you decide to volunteer, we will ask you to fill out a demographic form prior to starting the experiment. Completion of this form is optional. No identifying information will be collected as part of this online research study. Your data will be linked to a code, which may be able to be used to identify you. However, keys to identities will be kept entirely separate from the experimental data in password-protected computers.

In this study, you will see/hear pictures, sounds, videos, sentences and/or words shown to you on your computer. You will be asked to make decisions about what you see or hear and to make responses to the stimuli by either pressing a button or by making a short written response.

The study will take 45 minutes to complete.

There are no direct benefits to you, but you may feel gratified in knowing that you helped further the scholarly work in this research area. Choosing to be in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to be in this study, it will not affect your current or future relations with the University, and there is no penalty or loss of benefits. You are free to quit at any time, for whatever reason.

The risks of participating in this study are minimal. The visual and auditory stimuli will not be painful or damaging. A possible discomfort is that you may feel fatigued after a long study. If you become upset or frustrated by the experiment, we encourage you to take breaks, and you can withdraw from the study at any time. There may be other risks that are unknown at this time.

You will be compensated 1 psychology research credit per hour of testing. You will be compensated at the end of your participation in the study. If you choose to withdraw early from the study, any credit or monetary compensation will be adjusted for the amount of time that was spent in study.

Data Sharing:

- The data from this study might be used for future research projects in addition to the study you are currently participating in. Those future projects may focus on a topic that is unrelated to the goals of this study. We will give access to the data we are collecting to the general public and research community via the Internet and a fully open database.
- The data we share with the general public will be coded and not have your name on it, so people will not know your name or which data are yours. In addition, we will not share any information that we think might help people who know you guess which data are yours. If we write a report or article about this study or share the study data set with others, we will do so in a way that, to the best of our knowledge, ensures you cannot be directly identified.

- By agreeing to participate, you will be making a free and generous gift for research that might help others. It is possible that some of the research conducted using your information eventually could lead to the development of new methods for studying brain, new diagnostic tests, new drugs or other commercial products. Should this occur, there is no plan to provide you with any part of the profits generated from such products and you will not have any ownership rights in the products.
- Letting us use and share your data is voluntary. If you are not comfortable with the unlikely risk of being identified through your data, please withdraw from this study. You do not need to tell us why you are withdrawing. You are able to withdraw at any point throughout the study. By signing below, you agree to provide your data for future research. You agree that these may be shared with other investigators at other institutions from around the world. The details, results, and implications of these studies are unknown.

Contacts and Questions:

- The researchers conducting this study are Dr. Maureen Ritchey and postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and research assistants working in her laboratory. For questions or more information concerning this research you may contact Dr. Ritchey at maureen.ritche@bc.edu or 617-552-4100.
- If you have any questions about your rights as a person in this research study, you may contact: Director, Office for Research Protections, Boston College at (617) 552-4778, or irb@bc.edu

This study was approved by the Boston College Institutional Review Board on February 8th, 2021.

Statement of Consent:

By clicking "I Agree":

- I agree to take part in this research.
- I verify that I am over the age of 18.
- I feel like I understand what I am agreeing to.
- I know that I am free to withdraw at any time.

Please save or print a copy of this from for your records [link to download PDF of consent]

I AGREE

**I DO NOT
AGREE**