

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 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. This version of the study will additionally include unpleasant words, like “angry” or “scorpion.”

The study will take 30 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. Additionally, the unpleasant stimuli can cause discomfort for some individuals. 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.

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.ritchey@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

The Boston College IRB approved this protocol on February 27, 2017.

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 form for your records [[link to download PDF of consent](#)]

I AGREE

**I DO NOT
AGREE**