

**Vanderbilt University Institutional Review Board
Informed Consent Document for Research**

Principal Investigator: Maxcey, Ashleigh M.
Study Title: Visual Memory
Institution/Hospital: Department of Psychology

This informed consent document applies to Adult Volunteers

Name of participant: _____ Age: _____

The following information is provided to inform you about the research project and your participation in it. Please read this form carefully and feel free to ask any questions you may have about this study and the information given below. You will be given an opportunity to ask questions, and your questions will be answered. Also, you will be given a copy of this consent form.

Your participation in this research study is voluntary. You are also free to withdraw from this study at any time. In the event new information becomes available that may affect the risks or benefits associated with this research study or your willingness to participate in it, you will be notified so that you can make an informed decision whether or not to continue your participation in this study.

1. Key information about the study:

You are being asked to participate in a research study because we are trying to understand how the brain constructs rich, detailed internal representations of the visual world that surrounds us. One of the problems that we are interested in is that despite the common view that memory acts like a file drawer that we can open and access without consequence, long-term memory is actually not perfect and is altered by what we do. Here we are studying the relationship between your memory and items that you see on the screen. Therefore, you will perform a task in which you will be asked to remember pictures on a screen and later we will test your memory for those pictures. Due to the subject nature, some images could cause discomfort. Your data will help us build models of long-term memory and forgetting with clear real-world applications to issues as wide-ranging as eyewitness testimony and improving classroom performance. Compensation will be offered for this study.

2. Procedures to be followed and approximate duration of the study:

The task involves looking at pictures on a screen and responding to what you saw. The stimuli presented on the computer screen may consist of non-arousing stimuli (i.e., everyday objects), positively arousing stimuli (i.e., pleasing stimuli), and negatively arousing stimuli (i.e., upsetting or disturbing stimuli). You may be asked to complete a survey. You will be provided with detailed verbal instructions when you are seated at the computer with the experimenter. You will view the computer displays from a normal, comfortable reading distance. The approximate duration of the entire experiment will be 30-90 minutes. Your data will be kept for approximately 7 years following publication of the study. However, your data will be stored confidentially and assigned an arbitrary number code (e.g., A03).

3. Expected costs:

There are no costs associated with this study.

4. Description of the discomforts, inconveniences, and/or risks that can be reasonably expected as a result of participation in this study:

Some of the visual images you are exposed to may be emotionally arousing. These images may invoke positively arousing feelings (e.g., joy, pride) or negatively arousing feelings (e.g., disgust, fear).

The experiments entail no known risk and no deception is involved at all. The research does not involve stress. Many subjects like yourself consider these tasks to be like video games. Thousands and thousands of people like yourself have participated in these

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types of tasks in labs across the world, and the only discomfort or inconvenience you may experience includes tediousness, boredom, or slight eye strain.

5. Unforeseeable risks:

There are no foreseeable risks involved with the study.

6. Anticipated benefits from this study:

a) The potential benefits to science and humankind that may result from this study are that results of your participation provide valuable information that advances our understanding of how the brain allows people to see.

b) The potential benefits to you from this study is the educational benefit of understanding how your brain allows you to see, and how experiments are conducted to learn about behavior.

7. Compensation for participation:

You will receive either (1) course credit equal to 1 unit per 30 minutes of participation (up to maximum of 3 credits in a session) or (2) \$6 per hour for participation on Amazon Mechanical Turk with the potential for a \$1-\$2 bonus based on performance.

8. What happens if you choose to withdraw from study participation:

Your participation is strictly voluntary. Before you are asked for your consent, you will be given a detailed description and sample trials of the task. After this introduction, if you are still interested in participating, we will ask you to sign this consent form to indicate that you consent to taking part in the study. If you consent to participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time without loss of compensation.

9. Contact Information:

If you should have any questions about this research study or possibly injury, please feel free to contact **Ashleigh Maxcey** at **322-8141**.

For additional information about giving consent or your rights as a participant in this study, please feel free to contact the Vanderbilt University Institutional Review Board Office at (615) 322-2918 or toll free at (866) 224-8273.

10. Confidentiality Information:

All reasonable efforts will be made to keep the personal information in your research record private and confidential but absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Your information may be shared with institutional and/or governmental authorities, such as the Vanderbilt University Institutional Review Board, if you or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.

11. Privacy Information:

Your information may be shared with Vanderbilt or the government, such as the Vanderbilt University Institutional Review Board and the Federal Government Office for Human Research Protections, if you or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law. Vanderbilt may give or sell your data without identifiers for other research projects not listed in this form. There are no plans to pay you for the use or transfer of this de-identified information.