

FORGETFUL TYPEWRITER

The Forgetful Typewriter is a writing device that relates to themes of memory and technology and finds new contexts of use in personal forms of writing.

FADE - DESCRIPTION

This program can be used for creative and therapeutic writing and involves watching and reading the words of the text fading and reappearing. The reading processes and rearranging words can help find new meaning. Screenshots of the text are automatically saved in the 'captures' folder.

FORMS OF WRITING

The program is primarily designed for creative writing, but can also be used for expressive writing.

Creative Writing - Using the program for creative writing might involve describing a memory or biographical story from a first person perspective. Subjects might include writing about a family member or place and can be recent or from the past.

A possible structure to follow:

Beginning: Describe the setting in detail, including atmosphere, sights, smells and feelings.

Middle: Describe the defining event, action or incident.

End: Include a final reflection about the results of this experience.

Expressive Writing - Expressive writing can involve writing about a painful event or feeling using a high level of descriptive detail. This might include experiences such as a separation with a partner or loss of a loved one. Expressive writing can also encompass less traumatic subject matter, such as exam or work stress.

THE NATURE OF THE SOFTWARE

Please be aware that this software is still at prototype stage. Previous participants have emphasised that the software takes time getting used to. The software is not as robust as a normal word processor and might not work exactly as expected. For example, a number of features such as spelling & grammar check and copy and paste are unavailable. Therefore, please **be extra conscientious when using the software**. Please also remember not to trigger the interaction early by accidentally pressing the mouse.

When using the software, try to focus on writing instead of thinking about the interaction, which will come at the end. **Don't rush the process of writing**, as the more immersed you are in the activity, the more meaningful the interaction will be.

INSTRUCTIONS

Exercise duration: 15-20 minutes

Word Count: Write between 350 and 500 words.

Note – When using the app, **don't click directly on the window until step 5.**

1. Open the folder “FADE”
2. Open the application FADE. Don't click directly on the window.
3. Think about an interesting subject or event and start writing.
4. Write between 350 and 500 words.
5. Once you have finished, press the mouse once directly on the window. Read the fading words.
6. As the interaction progresses, watch the text becomes sparser.
7. When the screen is blank, press the mouse and read the words as they reappear.
8. You can press the mouse multiple times to repeat the process.

Note - You can also leave the program open, return later and press the mouse to watch the words reappear.

QUESTIONS

1. What did you write about and how did the interaction work in relation to your text?

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2. Does the fading and reappearing words illuminate new qualities, new meaning or positive perspectives?

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3. Does the interaction alter or play with your reminiscence?

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4. How would you describe the visual experience?

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5. Was the process in any way creatively/therapeutically conducive?

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6. Does the interaction resonate with any themes of digital writing (For example, ephemerality)

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7. Anything else?

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THANK YOU