**Trials Log – Task 06 (AI Interview)**

This document records all trials and approaches explored to create an AI-generated interview for Research Task 06. Both successes and failures are included to reflect the full research process and problem-solving strategies.

**🔎 Approach 1: ChatGPT – Script Generation**

**Tool Used:** ChatGPT  
**Goal:** Explore if ChatGPT could directly generate AI video or audio interviews.  
**Result:** ChatGPT cannot produce audio or video directly; it can only provide text responses or suggest possible tools.  
**Status:** ❌ Partial / Informational  
**Reflection:** While ChatGPT is useful for planning and guidance, generating realistic interviews requires dedicated TTS or AI video platforms.

**🔎 Approach 2: OpenAI TTS / Playground**

**Tool Used:** OpenAI TTS  
**Goal:** Convert script into audio using AI voice models.  
**Result:** Generated small audio clips, but free usage was extremely limited; no expressive voices available.  
**Status:** ❌ Partial failure  
**Reflection:** Good for short test clips, but impractical for a full interview.

**🔎 Approach 3: HeyGen – AI Video Generation**

**Tool Used:** HeyGen (Free Trial)  
**Goal:** Generate AI video avatars for interviewer and coach.  
**Process:**

* Created two avatars.
* Uploaded the script in segments.
* Generated video clips with lip-sync and facial expressions.  
  **Result:** High-quality video clips produced.  
  **Status:** ✅ Success  
  **Reflection:** HeyGen was the most effective tool for realistic AI interviews, combining speech and facial animation.

**🔎 Approach 4: Narakeet / VoiceMaker / Play.ht**

**Tools Used:** Narakeet, VoiceMaker, Play.ht (Free TTS)  
**Goal:** Attempt alternative voices for both speakers.  
**Result:** Produced audio clips but:

* Free tiers limited downloads and usage.
* Some voices sounded robotic or inconsistent.  
  **Status:** ❌ Partial failure  
  **Reflection:** TTS tools vary in quality; free tiers often have severe limitations.

**🔎 Approach 5: CapCut (Video Editing)**

**Tool Used:** CapCut Free  
**Goal:** Combine clips, adjust timing, add subtitles or minor background effects.  
**Result:** Simple merging possible, but AI voices from Narakeet/VoiceMaker needed manual syncing.  
**Status:** ❌ Partial failure for voice sync, ✅ usable for video editing

**🔎 Approach 6: Descript – Final Audio/Video Editing**

**Tool Used:** Descript (Free Plan)  
**Goal:** Merge HeyGen video clips, clean audio, and finalize the interview.  
**Process:**

* Imported HeyGen clips.
* Trimmed pauses, adjusted volume, added minor background ambience.
* Exported final continuous interview video.  
  **Result:** Polished, professional-looking AI interview.  
  **Status:** ✅ Success  
  **Reflection:** Descript is ideal for editing and polishing AI-generated content, even on a free plan.

**🔎 Additional Experiments / Failures**

* **Google Gemini AI:** Attempted AI video/audio generation, but output was not usable.
* **Synthesia (free trial):** Produced avatars, but free plan restricted download length.

**📊 Summary & Final Workflow**

**Successful Workflow:**  
**Script (ChatGPT) → HeyGen (AI Video Avatars) → Descript (Editing & Final Export) → Completed Interview**

**Failures / Lessons Learned:**

* Free TTS tools are often insufficient for full-length, expressive interviews.
* Voice cloning without payment is usually limited.
* Multiple clips require careful merging and audio balancing.
* Iterative testing is critical to identify the most practical combination of free tools.

**Conclusion:**  
Using HeyGen and Descript allowed the creation of a high-quality AI-generated street interview while navigating free-tier limitations. Documenting failures and partial successes provided valuable insights for workflow optimization and realistic expectations when using accessible AI tools.