**763 words**

**1. THE RESEARCH QUESTION**

Is there a difference in how well people perform and how nervous they get if they have been watching inspiring and motivation TikToks before performing before other people?

**2.1 METHOD: CONDITIONS, DEPENDENT VARIABLES, APPARATUS**

Nervousness is a construct that can be measured be a diverse range of physiological and to the eye visible heartbeat, lack of eye contact, blushing, sweating, fidgeting, nail biting, stuttering, and stop of performance. This experiment will measure be all the signs visible to the eyes, and they will be treated as one variable, meaning that if you are not nervous you will not show any of the signs, and with increased nervousness you will show a larger number of signs. The conditions for the test would be that the artistic expression would be the same: In this case people performing self-written poetry. And that the crowd is made up by the same people.

A camera will be put up to record the performance and the data points will be made by a simple calculation based on observation by the human eye.

**2.2 METHOD: PARTICIPANTS**

All participants will be self-taught artists that have had no formal training in both their written product as well as in voice control and performance. They can have performed live before, but not for more than a year. They all write and perform their own poetry on stage.

The participants will be selected via an open call on venues scattered around London. Important that people from all parts of the city will be joining to make it a more representative group. Bare in mind, that the group might be representative for London or capital cities in general, while it may not be for different areas of a given country.

The group falls in the age group of 18–25-year-old, as a former knowledge of TikTok and the format is expected. The participants will not be formally trained and will have limited experience in the context we are testing at. That means that their occupation can not be directly tied to performance or written art, so people working in a publishing house will disqualify. Ideally, the participant group will consist of all gender distributed equally.

**2.3 METHOD: PROCEDURE**

Participants will be divided in to two groups, one of which will get the opportunity to scroll on a test phone with motivating and inspiring TikToks for 15 minutes before going on stage, while the other group has to sit in silence and with their own mind 15 minutes before performing.

Visible signs of nervousness (blushing, sweating, fidgeting, nail biting, stuttering, and stop of performance) will be observed and counted while the person performs. A camera will be recording the whole thing for a safety count. This might affect the performance of some people but the risk of missing signs is too high. To limit experimenter bias the participants will not know that there is another group performing under other conditions.

**3.1. HYPOTHESES**

Poetic writers who have been watching inspiring videos on TikTok right before performing in front of a crowd gets less nervous on stage.

**3.2 RESULTS**

This experiment is a comparative study of two different means, and is therefore a T-Test. We are testing one variable under the same conditions for the two groups, and nothing is tested within the group. The null hypothesis is that the mean of group one equals the mean of group 2, while our hypothesis is that mean(Group\_TikTok) > mean(Group\_No\_TikTok). We will use the p-value to check the likelihood of our results and a histogram where means is plotted against ‘Number of Signs’.

Also a Scatter Plot could be used to plot the trend line as a linear progression between the two groups to see if they are directly proportional or not.

**4. RESULTS**

This study is easily applicable to any other kind of creative practice or any performative presentation. The idea of one of the test conditions being TikTok – a thing a lot of people in the age group are already using and engaging with.

The internal validity is harder. There is a lot of confounding variables that could influence the results. Among these are: stressful/peaceful transport to the venue, if people randomly know someone in the crowd, bad weather, if the crowd likes the poetry itself, and personal lives.

A likely experimental error that could influence the outcome would be when a sign is counted or not. How much do you have to sweat and stutter for it to count as a sign. Some people might sweat more than others without being proportionally more nervous. People are also inspired by different things so the algorithm might be more tuned to the taste of one than another.