

SAMPLE DEBRIEFING FORM

Research Project Title

Individual Differences in Memory

Title of Project

Prospective memory is the ability to remember to carry out at the appropriate time or place our plans, promises, and intentions. We make many different kinds of plans and agreements do things at a later time. For example, we may plan to go to the grocery store on the way home from work or agree to take a prescribed medication at a specific time. But for one reason or another, we sometimes fail to follow through with our intentions/plans. Further some people consistently follow through with their agreements and intentions; they can be relied on to be where they said they would be and to be punctual. Other people readily break agreements and fail to follow through with their intentions; they frequently show up late or miss scheduled appointments and social obligations altogether. These observations suggest that an individual's character or personality might predict her/his prospective memory task performance. Although many notable authors, including Freud, have speculated about the link between personality and remembering to do things, to date only one study has empirically explored the relationship and it only explored a few personality traits. We are interested in extending this line of research and exploring the influence of other personality traits (e.g., being conscientious or extraverted) on prospective memory performance. The overall goal of the present study is to find out whether individual differences in personality influence whether we follow through with our intentions (i.e., prospective memory performance).

Description of Purpose of Experiment

In this study, you completed a series of paper-and-pencil questionnaires. These questionnaires were intended to give us an understanding of your personality (e.g., whether you are conscientious or extraverted). These measures of your personality are our predictor variables. You were also asked to give the experimenter reminders occasionally. Specifically, you were asked to remind her to plug her phone back in and to remind her to give you an envelope. These reminder tasks were used as measures of prospective memory. Your performance on these tasks is our dependent variable. We will use participants' scores on the questionnaires that measured personality to try and predict prospective memory performance.

Description of Procedure

Description of all of the Critical Variables using terms Independent (or Predictor) and Dependent Variables

We expect to find that people high in pro-social personality traits, such as conscientiousness, agreeableness, and extraversion, will be more likely to perform the prospective memory tasks.

Anticipated Outcome

If you have any further questions, please feel free to ask the experimenter or use the contact information provided below to contact a member of the research team at a later time.

Solicit Questions

Contact Information about the Experiment

This experiment is being conducted under the supervision of Dr. Peter Graf, the principal investigator, with Carrie Cuttler as the co-investigator and Amanda LaMarre as the primary research assistant.

Identifying and contact info for PI, CIs & RAs

Please call one of them if you have any questions about this study. Dr. Graf may be reached at (604) 822-6635, and Carrie Cuttler and Amanda LaMarre may be reached at (604) 822-2140.

More Information about the Experiment

We know very little about the influence of personality on prospective memory, but if you would like to read more about what we know, please check out the following book chapter:

Searleman, A. (1996). Personality variables and prospective memory performance. In D. J. Herrmann, C. McEvoy, C. Hertzog, P. Hertel, & M. K. Johnson (Eds.), *Basic and Applied Memory Research Practical Applications Volume 2* (pp. 111-119). New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

