

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title: Learning processes involved in synthesis writing.

Researcher: Amy Peters

ERGO number: 80979

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

What is the research about?

My name is Amy Peters, and I am a PhD researcher in the School of Education at the University of Southampton. This research is being conducted as part of my PhD on the cognitive processes in writing-to-learn and is funded by the ESRC South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership. The aim of this study is to explore the learning processes involved in writing, including the effects of writing on subjective knowledge, text comprehension, memory, and text quality, as well as to explore the writing process using keystroke logging.

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been asked to participate in this study as you are a higher-education student in the UK, aged over 18, and speak fluent English. Approximately 70 participants will take part in the study.

What will happen to me if I take part?

The study will take no longer than 1.5-hours in total. If you decide to take part, you will need to sign the consent form and return it to the researcher via email. You will then be invited to book an in-person study session, which will take place on Highfield Campus. Before your in-person session, you will be contacted via email with a link to an initial online questionnaire which contains some demographic questions, some questions on your writing beliefs, and some questions on your knowledge of a topic. The in-person session will involve reading and writing about some texts, completing questionnaires, and completing a memory test. Whilst you are writing, your keystrokes will be logged.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

As a token of appreciation for your participation in this study, you will receive £15. Your participation will also contribute to knowledge in this area of research.

Are there any risks involved?

There are no risks of participating in this research outside of what you typically experience in everyday life.

What data will be collected?

The data collected will be your responses on the questionnaires, the text you write during the writing activities (including your keystrokes), and your reaction time on the memory test. Your anonymised data will be stored separately from your email address in a password-protected file. The anonymised data will be deposited on the University of Southampton's institutional repository at the time of my thesis submission, and will be published alongside any resulting publications of the study in line with the UKRI Open Access Policy.

Will my participation be confidential?

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable

regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential. All of your data will be anonymised and not linked to your email address. All data will be kept in a password-protected file.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form and return it to the researcher via email to show you have agreed to take part.

What happens if I change my mind?

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw during the study without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. As your data will be anonymised, you will not be able to withdraw it after you have finished taking part in the study.

What will happen to the results of the research?

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

The results of the research will be written up for the researchers' PhD thesis, and may be written up for publication in academic journals and/or presented at conferences. If you wish to receive a copy of the results, you can contact the researcher.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information about the study, or have any questions, please contact the researcher, Amy Peters (A.Peters@soton.ac.uk).

What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researcher (Amy Peters, A.Peters@soton.ac.uk) who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

Data Protection Privacy Notice

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project.

Under data protection law, 'Personal data' means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University's data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website

(<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/Is/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University's policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to

anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason ('lawful basis') to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the 'Data Controller' for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for a minimum of 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and considering taking part in the research.