

Debriefing Form Template

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors that influence reading comprehension and retention. Specifically, we were interested in the role that cognitive processing has on the retention of material.

Hypotheses and Supporting Research

Prior research by Jones and Jones (1998) indicated that people retain information to a greater extent if they have processed the information in a meaningful way. Therefore, we hypothesized that having readers make inferences while reading text material would enhance their retention of the material. To test our hypotheses, one group was instructed to make inferences while reading, whereas the other group received no instructions. We will compare the two groups in terms of the amount of material correctly identified during the recognition task.

Clarification of Deception Used in this Study *(only provide this section if deception was used in the research)*

You were told during the instructions to this experiment that the questions had no right or wrong answers, but in fact there were correct answers. We apologize for this deception, but it was necessary for the study. We have found in previous research that people become nervous and that they have difficulty concentrating on the reading task when they believe that they are being tested in some way. Your participation in this study will be kept confidential. Only group averages will be reported, not individual performance.

Contact Information

The results of this study will be available by *<give approximate date>*. If you would like further information about the study or have questions regarding the experiment, please contact *<name of researcher>* at *<researcher's e-mail>* at your convenience.

Psychological Services *(only provide this section if there are one or more risks to participants)*

If you have experienced any personal distress caused by the content or materials in this research and want to talk to someone, counseling services are available through the Student Health Center free of charge. Please contact Psychological Services at 278-6416 for assistance.

Closing

Do you have any questions? *(Respond appropriately.)*
Thank you for participating!