**Open Your Class With This Tomorrow**

***Head in the Cloud: Why Knowing Things Still Matters When Facts Are So Easy to Look Up***

**Directions:** Randomly divide students into control and experimental conditions. Participants will be asked to answer a 16-question quiz (Quiz #1 is easy, Quiz #2 is hard). Those with Quiz #1 will serve as the control and those with Quiz #2 will serve as the experimental condition.

This will be followed by the completion of the Modified Stroop test, which is the same for everyone. Prior to completing the Modified Stroop Test, participants will be asked to remember a 6-digit number to cerate a cognitive load. Each partner (one of from each condition) should time the other on this task and record the time in seconds. First group 1 will complete the task, and then group 2 to eliminate any confounding variables regarding the timing between the completion of the quiz task and the Modified Stroop Test.

**Expectations:** The expectation is that those with the more difficult questions (Group 2) will complete the Modified Stroop Effect more slowly because of the priming task. Seeing the following words: Screen, Internet, Google, Yahoo, Modem, Browser, and Keys is expected to slow down the individuals from the second more difficult quiz because they will want to look up the answers from the quiz they just completed. Mean times can be compared to determine the results.

**Discussion:** Even if the results do not replicate those found by Sparrow, Lui, and Wagner a discussion and identification of the following factors can occur.

Independent variable

Operational definition of the dependent variable

Potential confounding variables

Potential for difficulty in replication

Sample selection

Assignment to groups

Within-subjects versus between-subjects design

**Fun Random Fact:** John Ridley Stroop who created the Stroop effect for his 1935 Ph.D. in Psychology, finished his Ph.D. and never pursued a career in the field of psychology. Instead he became a country preacher in Tennessee.

**Reference:** This is a modification of an activity completed by Sparrow, Lui, and Wegner and published in Science Express in July 2011.

The original article is titled: *Google Effects impact on Memory: Cognitive Consequences of Having Memory at our Fingertips*

**Quiz #1**

1. Are dinosaurs extinct?
2. Was *Moby Dick* written by Hermann Melville?
3. Is the formula for water H20?
4. Is stop sign red in color?
5. Are there 24 hours in a day?
6. Is the current President of the United States Barack Obama?
7. Does 8 plus 8 equal 16?
8. Was John F. Kennedy assassinated in 1994?
9. Is oxygen a metal?
10. Are there 15 months in a year?
11. Is ketchup made with tomatoes?
12. Does 5 plus 7 equal 30?
13. Was *Romeo and Juliet* written by William Shakespeare?
14. Do all countries have at least 2 colors in their flags?
15. Does a triangle have three sides?
16. Was the *Cat in the Hat* written by J.D. Salinger?

**Quiz #2**

1. Does Denmark contain more square miles than Costa Rica?
2. Did Benjamin Franklin give piano lessons?
3. Does an Italian deck of cards contain jacks?
4. Did Alfred Hitchcock eat meat?
5. Are more babies conceived in February than any other month?
6. Do all countries have at least 2 colors in their flags?
7. Was Czar Nicholas executed in 1917?
8. Is Krypton`s atomic number 26?
9. Is the average age of a human eyelash 150 days?
10. Was Pompey defeated by Julius Caesar in 48 B.C.?
11. Were family names first used in the Roman times?
12. Is myrmecophobia the fear of ants?
13. Is Jones the most common name in America?
14. Do insects feel hunger?
15. Was Pepin King of the Franks from 482 to 511 A.D.?
16. Is a quince a fruit?

**Stroop Test**

**Directions:** Before reading these words out loud as quickly as possible to your partner, keep in mind the following number **658762**

Paper Eraser Target Google

Yahoo Yogurt Nike Screen

Piano Book Laser Television

Nails Browser Spoon Keys

Chair Coca-Cola Modem Hammer

Internet Pencil Table Telephone

Computer Apple Cat Jacket

Record the time in seconds

Partner #1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Partner #2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_