

Feedback for Participants

Experiment #: Title

Academic Year [2000/2001]

Byrne Laboratory, Department of Psychology

Rice University, Houston, TX

Thank you for participating in this experiment. Regardless of how you felt you did on the task the data you have provided will be of great value in our research.

The experiment you have just completed is *[part of a set of experiments designed to test theories of how task similar and task dissimilar visual onsets, as well as the temporal location of these onsets, can distract attention and affect performance on a task. Currently research in this area has not definitively answered the question of whether all types of visual onsets can be successfully ignored. The research supports the idea that visual onsets sharing features relevant to a task have the greatest ability to distract attention and affect task performance. Research also has shown that a visual onset is less likely to draw attention if it falls outside of the region on which attention is focused]*.

The experiment in which you just participated is *[an attempt to examine the effect of onsets in regions between locations of focused attention]*. Trends that will be examined in your data will include *[the effects of the different onset types and placements on typing and error rates. Also whether these measures of the distracting effects of the onsets changed over the course of the experiment, i.e. were you able to learn to ignore them. These questions are important in helping us better understand the distracting effect of visual onsets. This is relevant to a number of computer applications ranging from flashing banners during web browsing, to important emergency warnings]*.

Thank you again for your participation.