

NOTES FROM IAT333 TEAM MEETINGS:

Hello team boobless :p

I'm just here to post up the cultural probe items we brainstormed in lab. Enjoy :D Feel free to add if you think of something new and we can discuss :)

- a "prop" for improv members → competition → used to determine which participant finds the most uses for the prop
- disposal camera for participants
- FLIP camcorder for group
- Giant notepad for group
- cultural package as an item → have a simple box (circular, rectangle, square, etc) and have a little message "decorate me" → how participants decorate the box can show us about their individuality/personality
- utensils

*approach: "lending" instead of making it a gift.

Thursday May 19th 2011

Serge, Alice and I met today (Shahanah). We discussed the finalization process of the probes + social group.

The improv group has fell through, due to the amount of time we can meet with them. Jeremy informed Serge that they only meet once a week because the summer holiday and obviously this is not enough for us to proceed with the project.

We went straight to our Plan D.) The Christian group. I have spoken to my friend about the project already, and she see's her group about 3 times a week, and that her group is cool with participating in the project. The date she can meet with us, including her group, to deploy the packages is SUNDAY MAY 22nd 2011 @ 5:00pm if this date doesn't work for us because not enough time to package the probes, we have the next day to meet with them, which is the Monday in the evening. There is a good age range, 16-26 years old, which will give a good range of results.

We have developed a strong list of probes:

- The box
- Disposable camera
- A Blank Notepad
- Maps of Vancouver+Richmond
- Tin Foil
- Highlighters

each of these items touch base on the Physio, Ideo, Psycho and Socio Pleasures which were discussed in the lectures, and which will also be our base for the results of this project.

Here is the e-mail I sent to Anna earlier today, about the rationals of why we picked the items as our cultural probes. She has yet to get back to me, but she also recommended some other unique ideas that I think you guys saw with the reply in the e-mail.

"Our purpose for this project is to find what the participant's life is like outside of their commitment to church. We are making the assumption that the users attend church to socialize and learn more about their religion, with other people that share the same interests..however we would like to investigate how each person can be identified with their individuality, but can still come together and be a part of a group.

Disposable Cameras: The cameras will serve the purpose of finding out the idea values in the individual. We will put statements on the back of the camera saying to take photos of "Something you find normal", "Something new you tried today", "Something you saw when you first woke up". We will see the diversity throughout the photos, to see how each individual thinks of what is "normal" for instance, and will allow their perspective to communicate visually to us for the results.

Blank Notepads: In the notepad booklet, each page will represent a day. On each day, they can discuss a problem they had that day, and how they solved it, or if they didn't solve, how they would've solved, or what multiple outcomes there could've been presented. What makes the notepad probe significant, is they are able to communicate their story of problem solving for each day, in any way they would like to interpret it. They can write a story in a paragraph, draw a mindmap, a doodle, a comic, describe their scenario in a number of words...what we want to see as a result is their psycho values being shown, and how they like to interpret in presenting their problems on paper, and how they want it to be communicated to someone. This will help us during the results phase, because it will not only give us a range of results we had no idea existed, but will also inspire us to think of different ways of showing problems and results, and what other ways there are to show situations like this in presentations. We would like the participants to teach us something.

Maps of Vancouver: The maps of Vancouver, are for the participants to show us where they traveled during the 5 days duration with the package. We want to focus on individuality with this social group, and we want to see where they travel, outside of the church. Each day, they will use a different colour highlighter to either track their paths of they went, or any specific places they went to by a dot. A different colour of highlighter will represent day 1, day 2, day 3 etc.

Tin Foil: We will be putting 5 sheets of tin foil in each probe package. To continue emphasizing the idea of individuality in the project, we would like to investigate how creative each individual is. We would like to form a structure or object with the tin foil, and create a 3d object each day. There are no limits on what can be created, we would like to see the abstract objects that can be created by just having tin foil, and using their creativity.

Probe Package: Our package is the most important probe of this project. We would like to present our items in treasure chest like box forms. They chests will be left blank. When we distribute these packages to the social group, we will inform them why it's blank. When we get them back on the recollection day, we want them to individually design their boxes, in anyway they want...with any material. It is their own design. This allows the participants to get some sort of physio pleasure from this experience, and also show us their individually through colours, and different mediums.”

May 21 meeting

Attending members: 5:30-9 Mark & Alice

9-10:15 Mark, Shahana & Serge

10:15+ Everyone

Minutes are [here](#)

-- IMPORTANT!!! do not tell them to decorate the box. Just have the message "decorate me" on the box

Things accomplished:

1. It became clear that Mark wasn't receiving emails due to a mix up with his email address. For future notice, Mark's email is mcl5@sfu.ca, not mc15@sfu.ca. (an L, not a one is in the address)
2. Mark expressed concerns on the current package [here](#). Alice also didn't like the idea of telling the participants to decorate the box. It is recommended that we only use a "decorate me" message to communicate our intent
3. After these concerns were expressed, Alice and Mark began changing the items in the package [here](#). Serge and Shahana showed up at that point, while Alice left to close down her work.
4. Debates began on the 3 items in the package inherited from the sample. The discussion roved to Mark's contact info, and then to the way the box would be presented. The changes were agreed upon and the topic returned to the inherited objects.
5. Regarding the cameras, we'll be providing the participants with "signs" that start with sentences like "I like ..." or "I dislike ..." or "I want to try ..." We can also give them blank signs and they can write in whatever they like to put beside the picture. These signs would be held by the item that is being photographed. By doing it this way, the participant won't have to recall the picture/ticker count on the camera everytime he/she takes a picture.

Sunday May 22nd 2011

Alice and I met today (Shahanah) to put together the probe packages. We were able to develop more of the items for the participants to understand more efficiently. We did a pretty good job of putting together what we could while Alice had time. Alice left early and I have just finished it off.

What is officially in the package:

→ 5 pieces of Tin Foil

- Disposable Camera with sign captions + others
- Affirmation “Speak to Me” bottle
- Notepad+pencil for either the affirmations or if they feel like some sort of communication/expression
- The box itself
- Magnet (This magnet consists of positivity quotes. There is one in each package and the participants may do what they'd like with it. We hope that this will act as “trigger” for the participants and hopefully help them remember to keep referring to the package over the course of 5 days. It is also used as inspiration for photos or affirmations if they have any).

I will be making the instructions, as Alice and I made drafts of what it should say. We have envelopes for them, and have structured out how they will be placed so the participants can refer to them effortlessly.

We have also packaged the items so that it also has meaning behind our cultural probe project. We used a lot of colour, but not so much that it's distracting. We still want to keep the idea of our probe being “fun” and “enjoyable” as a oppose to bland and boring, looking like a lot of brown packaging.

- We wrapped the pencil+notepad in coloured string.
- Titled the affirmation bottle “Speak to Me” in coloured writing
- The envelope for the instructions will be folded in a coloured fabric envelope

These are just some of the small details of colour being incorporated.

Also: the poster for the group dynamic is done. It is a cross section of a house with various elements. We have provided coloured markers + speech bubble post-it's for the social group's participation

Documentation:

Various photos have been taken which will be used in the slides and the poster as well. We will also probably refer to these during the rest of the semester.

-Shahanah