

Week 2

Refer to the meeting document for information on the progression for the cultural probes! -Shahanah

Mark's notes are in blue

Serge

Mark's Concerns

1. How many cameras are in the package? I'm worried we'll be giving them too much stuff to do.
 - there will be ONE camera per package, per participant
2. How will the task for the camera be indicated to the participant? What is the task (many were in the email)?
 - "to be determined?"
 - 3(maybe) columns on the back of the camera, 1st: shot individually like("something normal", "delicious food", etc), 2nd: in the group (some activity or feelings during an activity) 3rd: "free thought" (anything they'd like)
 - there will also be(possibly, but not necessarily) cells next to each "question" for the participant to put the number of the photo in(say, they shot the "food" on pic #20, and its a #2 in the list, so they can simply write it in.
3. Three of the items are reused from the sample probe. While I can see some justification for them being there, I am concerned that we have not justified why we need/want their information.
 - Thoughts?
4. In addition, I'm worried that reusing these objects will make us appear less creative to the TA and prof.
5. I'm worried about our heavy reliance on daily tasks. (camera, notepad, map, foil) If we overwork our participants, they may choose to not participate at all. Perhaps we should consider changing items?
 - potentially, they will be doing these tasks only during the days they meet (they might simply forget about the items on other days)
6. Notepad needs to be fleshed out more if we are using it. How will we make sure that people will actually want to use it? What questions will we ask? etc.
7. Tin foil. Isn't the box a similar probe? Triggers creativity, etc?
8. No probes look at the group as a whole or the connections between group members.
9. For the box, I'm worried that the way we are presenting it isn't ideal. Wondering if we could just have a blank box with "decorate me" written on the inside. If they ask, just say that they can use their own imaginations. The difference is that instead of **us asking them** to decorate the box, **the box is asking them**. (feels more "fun")
 - I thought this was what we were doing ... I didn't know we were going to actually tell them to decorate the box.
 - the participants can examine the contents of the box, and if they will have questions about "decorate me" we can tell them that its up to them how they want to do it. But like it is said above, we are not telling them that there is a "decorate me" sign inside.
 - Please note that in the email sent to the TA it states that the participants will be told what the box is for directly. There is no mention of a label on the box.
 - Well, its a small change, im sure the TA will be okay with it.
 - Agreed, but neither me nor Alice really liked the idea of saying it directly, so we thought we'd make a point of mentioning it =)

Probe Items

- A box with “decorate me” written on the inside.
- 5 pieces of aluminum foil
- One Disposable Camera with a set of cards that suggest photo topics including:
 - “Tonight my dinner is..”
 - “I spent the day with..”
 - “My favorite sweater/top is...”
 - “My favorite color is..”
 - “This is my bedroom..”
 - “This is where I went today..”
 - “Today I tried ...”
- **One House Drawing for the group**
 - this item will be used to judge the group dynamics and relationships
 - We provide a basic frame of a house, like a section view, possibly with multiple floors/rooms and allow the whole group to participate in decorating the house. And explain that this house is a representation of their group. The important part of this exercise is that they all need to place themselves somewhere in the house. This way we will be able to see if there are (if any) conflicts, sub-groups....cliques, different age groups or a diversified group in an area of the house
- An Affirmation Bottle
- A Notepad & Pencil
- One motivational magnet

Justifications behind the items

- The Box
 - **physio pleasure**, **ideo pleasure**, **psycho pleasure**
 - Provides an easy template for participants to vent their creativity
 - Similar presentation to primary level art assignments (easily approachable)
 - Decoration of the box will reflect information on the participant (creativity, social standing, resources, individuality etc.)
- 5 piece of Tin Foil
 - **physio pleasure** of touch, possibly **psycho pleasure**
 - Attempts to trigger creativity, while providing little to no template
 - Focus on thought processes of the individual, and less on their social standing or resources.
 - Possible synergy with the box. It may be that participants will use their foil to decorate the box.
 - May trigger origami-like thought processes. (the creation of a tangible shape from an abstract one)
 - If the participant has a more practical nature, they may throw the foil out and indicate it to us.
 - Tangibility exercise; using flexible material to trigger thought process of some sort; reinforcing/encouraging the use of their senses
- Disposable camera+photo captions
 - **ideo pleasure**, **socio pleasure**
 - diversity and individualism
 - how they use the photo caption available, as motivation for taking photos; the captions will tell us more about them visually.
 - The subject of the photo will be shown by caption cards, which will be held up in the shot while it is being taken
 - There are only 7 captions, leaving 20 available shots for them to take photos of other environments, objects or people. How they use the composition is entirely up to them.
 - There will also be 3 blank caption cards. This will allow the participant to take pictures of whatever they like. Once a photo is taken with a blank caption card, it can be erased (if written with pencil) thus, can be used multiple times.
 - We hope to uncover base assumptions in the participants, revealing information about them and their attitudes toward the world.
- The House Poster
 - **socio pleasure**, **ideo pleasure**
 - group dynamics, social interactions within the group, group structure, sub-groups
 - We hope to draw out and witness the group dynamics with this item
 - Again, a very primary level task, but allows the wide demographic and wide age-range in the church community to have fun, and enjoy the experience.
 - Will also spark communication, activity and interaction between the different individuals within the social group.
- Notepad with pencil
 - **ideo pleasure**, possibly **psycho pleasure**
 - can be used to write affirmations to be placed in "Speak to Me" bottle
 - participant will be given the opportunity to share anything he or she wants.
 - the notepad is blank so the participant can doodle when they're bored. The use of the notepad is limitless
- Affirmation "Speak To Me" Bottle + Notepad with Pencil
 - **ideo pleasure**, **psycho pleasure**
 - They are able to share positive ideas, thoughts, words, which they have encountered in their life, and feel like they can express it somewhere. The ideas for the affirmations can come from things they have overheard in their 5 days with the package, or simply just something they thought of themselves. However, if they do happen to write something not related to our expectations, that will also tell us a little bit about the person and their individuality.

- Magnet
 - The magnet is meant as a reminder. The hope is that our participant will use it in their house in a visible location and, when they look at it, be reminded of the package. Our hope is that it will increase participation with our probes.
 - We chose the magnet specifically. Unlike an alarm clock or a phone call from the testers, the magnet will motivate the participant to enjoy the experience with their package without intruding in their daily rhythm. The words from the magnet itself, can also be a way for them trigger another conversation with someone in their life, something to look at for motivation for something.

The Social group

This group is a group of young adults + teens that attend in a Christian church. They are about a 10-15 person group that meet at least 3 times a week for a bible study sessions, worship sessions, youth group sessions and most importantly their church services. Their demographic ranges from 16 year olds to 26 year olds, allowing us to have a broad range with our participants and learning their individuality not only within the church but outside the church as well; what they bring from their individual dynamic to the church community as a whole.

- **Physio-pleasure** (pleasure from **sensory impressions** of sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste)
- **Social-pleasure** (social **relationships** and **communication** that a product enables)
- **Psycho-pleasure** (pleasure felt when a product **helps the user** to establish a task)
- **Ideo-pleasure** (pleasure derived from **values** that a product and its use represent).

These forms of pleasure, will be our base as to why we put certain probes within our package; what sort of result we could come across by when we recollect the packages from the participants. It was important for us to keep referring to the 4 different pleasures when creating the probe package, because it was a reminder that the items should present an enjoyable experience, and not something forced, or needed. But more of something they can choose to do over 5 days because it is available to them.

****NOTE****

Most of the justifications we put behind the probes that are listed, are similar to hypotheses when conducting an experiment. The package will either work the way with the justifications we thought about, or they can take a complete different route. The point of this research is to see what happens when we recollect, and we further analyze how the probes worked or did not work. **We cannot jump to too many "why's?" or "reasons" as to why objects are in the package.** We can only be *patient*, and put enough trust into the participants that they will try to use the package as much as they can over 5 or 6 days. Let's not jump to conclusions and over stress the project. Remember we're building off this first assignment, so we cannot prepare for what is coming, except expect somewhat of decent results from this experience.

-shahanah

Package Deployment: Monday May 23rd, 2011

Serge and I (Shahanah) met with a group of 4 participants to deploy our Cultural Probe Packages. The interview/presentation of the project, purpose, who we are, and why they were there went extremely well. They are a great group to participate in this process of the project. They were excited to see the packages, and open them, and get a better understanding of what to do.

Some responses were "I'm excited" and lots of smiles.

Serge documented with photos of the group looking through the packages, and also me answering questions and what not.

The questions that were raised were only questions that were related to the items in the package such as what to do with this. Guidance notes were put with them in their packages, and we read over it together. I encouraged any questions they had to let me know, during this process and time. I also notified them about a note on the Guidance notes that my name is on there along with my cell number and e-mail address if they need to contact me for any concerns or questions. The Guidance notes were just explaining the project, who we are (students from SFU in SIAT in an Interaction Design class), and that we would like to investigate their individuality outside of their social group. The notes also included a brief description of each item, not giving it a task, but giving them guidance if they need to refer to an item during the 5 day duration. The only question Serge and I got from each one of them was "Can we get these back?!"

We said Yes of course...as soon as we're done documenting results with photos, and any analysis of results we get. If need be, we can make photo copies of the "Speak to Me" notes they make.

As we proceeded with the first interview process, we then explained the Poster we made for the church community..it was easily understood what the purpose was, and how they could freely add to it. Their first meeting of the week, within the church, is actually tonight, so they will get a fresh grasp at it.

Serge and I will meet with the 4 participants again on **FRIDAY MAY 27TH, 2011 @ 6:18pm** in Richmond again. We will then receive the packages back for our results phase, and will also get any more comments and Q&A session.

Again, they seemed really excited to be a part of the process, which is a good sign. However, let's not worry about what we could possibly not get back, thus having our results not give us any sort of boost in the process of the project, just keep an open mind about the participants, and what can potentially tell us about individuality and how social groups interact with each other.

-Shahanah