

## **Verbatim Methodology**

### **Phase 1**

#### **Instructions to participants for avatar creation**

Condition 1: In this task you will be asked to create your own avatar (a digital self-representation) using the avatar creation tool, "WeeWorld".

Before you move on to create your own avatar, the next few slides will include a tutorial for using "WeeWorld". This tutorial will include screenshots of what you can expect to see during the avatar creation task.

Condition 2: In this task you will be asked to create your own avatar (a digital self-representation) using the avatar creation tool, "WeeWorld".

Please try to create this avatar so that it reflects your personality! Your avatar should represent who you are, including your personality traits; it does not have to look like your physical self.

Before you move on to create your own avatar, the next few slides will include a tutorial for using "WeeWorld". This tutorial will include screenshots of what you can expect to see during the avatar creation task.

All participants:

When the avatar editor loads, this is what it will look like. Click "Create a WeeMee" to get started.



First, you will be able to select options for face shape, gender, skin color, and eye color. When you're satisfied with your selections, click "Get dressed now"



You will now be able to personalize your avatar. Notice the bottom and side menus, outlined in red in the image below.

The bottom menu has three options that will produce different side menus. The first option, currently selected, allows you to customize hairstyles, emotions, and body type (available in the side menu).

In this picture, "Hair" is currently selected. You can click on "Prev" or "Next" to see more options, if they are available. You will also be able to choose custom colors for certain features, such as hair.



In this example image, "Emotions" has been selected from the side menu.



Selecting "Clothing" from the bottom menu allows choices to begin customizing your avatar's clothing. There are options for tops, bottoms, headwear, eyewear, and footwear. Be sure to visit all these options to fully customize your avatar!



The final bottom menu option, "More Stuff," allows you to choose different miscellaneous items to add to your avatar, such as interests, accessories, and food & drink. You can also choose an environment for your avatar, but please note that for this study, the environment you choose for your avatar will not be saved.

Once you are done creating your avatar, click "Save me now", located underneath the image of your avatar, in order to continue.



Thank you for going through the tutorial! You will now create your own avatar. If at any time you have questions, please ask the research assistant for help. When you are ready to save your avatar, please call the research assistant over. They will save your avatar for you.

## Measures

### Big Five Personality Inventory

This following questionnaire lists a number of characteristics that may or may not describe you. Using the scale provided with each item, please choose the number that best indicates the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement. Be as honest and accurate as possible.

(The following 46 items were each presented with a 5-point Likert scale with the following labels: 1- Strongly disagree, 2, 3- Neither agree nor disagree, 4, 5- Strongly agree. Items were presented in a randomized order.)

- I see myself as someone who: Is talkative.
- I see myself as someone who: Tends to find fault with others.
- I see myself as someone who: Does a thorough job.
- I see myself as someone who: Is depressed, blue.
- I see myself as someone who: Is original, comes up with new ideas.
- I see myself as someone who: Is reserved.
- I see myself as someone who: Is helpful and unselfish with others.
- I see myself as someone who: Can be somewhat careless.
- I see myself as someone who: Is relaxed, handles stress well.
- I see myself as someone who: Is curious about many different things.
- I see myself as someone who: Is full of energy.
- I see myself as someone who: Starts quarrels with others.
- I see myself as someone who: Is a reliable worker.
- I see myself as someone who: Can be tense.
- I see myself as someone who: Is ingenious, a deep thinker.
- I see myself as someone who: Generates a lot of enthusiasm.
- I see myself as someone who: Has a forgiving nature.
- I see myself as someone who: Tends to be disorganized.
- I see myself as someone who: Worries a lot.
- I see myself as someone who: Has an active imagination.
- I see myself as someone who: Tends to be quiet.
- I see myself as someone who: Is generally trusting.
- I see myself as someone who: Tends to be lazy.
- I see myself as someone who: Is emotionally stable, not easily upset.
- I see myself as someone who: Is inventive.
- I see myself as someone who: Has an assertive personality.
- I see myself as someone who: Can be cold and aloof.
- I see myself as someone who: Perseveres until the task is finished.
- I see myself as someone who: Can be moody.
- I see myself as someone who: Values artistic, aesthetic experiences.
- I see myself as someone who: Is sometimes shy, inhibited.
- I see myself as someone who: Is considerate and kind to almost everyone.
- I see myself as someone who: Does things efficiently.
- I see myself as someone who: Remains calm in tense situations.
- I see myself as someone who: Prefers work that is routine.
- I see myself as someone who: Is outgoing, sociable.
- I see myself as someone who: Is sometimes rude to others.
- I see myself as someone who: Makes plans and follows through with them.
- I see myself as someone who: Gets nervous easily.
- I see myself as someone who: Likes to reflect, play with ideas.
- I see myself as someone who: Has few artistic interests.
- I see myself as someone who: Likes to cooperate with others.
- I see myself as someone who: Is easily distracted.

I see myself as someone who: Is sophisticated in art, music, or literature.

\*I see myself as someone who: Generally sleeps more than three hours a week

\*I see myself as someone who: Never makes mistakes

\*Note: These two items were included to check for inattentive responding, and were excluded from all analysis.

### BFI10 Instructions

This following questionnaire lists a number of characteristics that may or may not describe you. Using the scale provided with each item, please choose the number that best indicates the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement. Be as honest and accurate as possible.

(The following 10 items were each presented with a 5-point Likert scale with the following labels: 1-Disagree strongly, 2-Disagree a little, 3-Neither agree nor disagree, 4-Agree a little, 5-Agree strongly)

I see myself as someone who...

Is reserved

I see myself as someone who...

Is generally trusting

I see myself as someone who...

Tends to be lazy

I see myself as someone who...

Is relaxed, handles stress well

I see myself as someone who...

Has few artistic interests

I see myself as someone who...

Is outgoing, sociable

I see myself as someone who...

Tends to find faults with others

I see myself as someone who...

Does a thorough job

I see myself as someone who...

Gets nervous easily

I see myself as someone who...

Has an active imagination

### Demographics

We would like to learn some basic things about you. Please answer the following questions.

Please indicate your gender: (male/female)

Please indicate your age: (open response)

## **Phase 2**

### **Instructions to raters**

In the following section, you will be shown a series of digital avatars, and asked to rate each one based on the personality of its creator. The questionnaire provided lists a number of characteristics that may or may not describe the individual you've been asked to rate. Using the

scale provided with each item, please choose which point best indicates the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement. Please be as honest and accurate as possible.

Examine each avatar and **try to predict the personality of the person who created that avatar.**

Take your time, and do your best.

### **For each avatar rated**

#### **BFI10**

The following questionnaire lists a number of characteristics that may or may not describe the individual you've been asked to rate. Using the scale provided with each item, please choose which point best indicates the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement. Please be as honest and accurate as possible.

(Participants were then shown a picture of an avatar. Beneath each avatar image, the following questionnaire was displayed. Avatar stimuli are included at the end of this document. )

(The following 10 items were each presented with a 5-point Likert scale with the following labels: 1-Disagree strongly, 2-Disagree a little, 3-Neither agree nor disagree, 4-Agree a little, 5-Agree strongly)

I see this individual as someone who...

Is reserved

I see this individual as someone who...

Is generally trusting

I see this individual as someone who...

Tends to be lazy

I see this individual as someone who...

Is relaxed, handles stress well

I see this individual as someone who...

Has few artistic interests

I see this individual as someone who...

Is outgoing, sociable

I see this individual as someone who...

Tends to find faults with others

I see this individual as someone who...

Does a thorough job

I see this individual as someone who...

Gets nervous easily

I see this individual as someone who...

Has an active imagination

#### **Demographics**

We would like to learn some basic things about you. Please answer the following questions.

Please indicate your gender: (male/female)

Please indicate your age: (open response)



## Avatar stimuli

































































