

Diary Instructions:

1. Duration:
 - 7 days to capture a range of weekday and weekend behaviors
 - 2 entries per day (Morning/afternoon and evening)
2. Format:
 - Use an online form, such as google forms, for easy input
 - Use a mix of multiple-choice questions and open-ended fields
3. Timing:
 - Participants should complete entries immediately after listening to music or at a set time each evening if recalling multiple sessions

Diary Study:

1. Date and time:
(Dropdown for date) (Time picker for time)
2. Where were you when listening to music?
 - At home
 - At work/school
 - In a vehicle
 - Outdoors
 - Gym
 - Other [Text]
3. What were you doing while listening?
 - Working/studying
 - Relaxing
 - Exercising
 - Socializing
 - Commuting
 - Other [Text]
4. Were you listening alone or with others?
 - Alone
 - With others: [Optional: What's your relation to them?]
5. What kind of music were you listening to?
[Open-ended text field or dropdown for genres]
6. How long did you listen?
[Time slider or dropdown options: <15 mins, 15-30 mins, 30-60 mins, >1 hour]

7. Why did you listen to music?

- To focus
- To relax
- To boost mood
- Other: [text]

Response essay:

This diary study had several strengths for gathering data to improve a music streaming recommendation system. It captured detailed, real-life information about where, when, and why people listen to music, giving insight into their habits and preferences. For example, understanding how context, such as being at the gym or relaxing at home impacts music choices can help tailor recommendations to fit different activities. However, there are some challenges with this method. It depends on participants being consistent and honest in recording their entries, which might not always happen. Some might forget to log an entry or provide incomplete/inaccurate information. While creating this study, I found it challenging to balance the depth of the questions with keeping the process simple and manageable. I also had to think carefully about how often participants should record entries to gather enough data without overwhelming them.