

Booklet Code: SJ-1010 Step 1 View all

**STEP 1. 1000 words or less**

Each writer's task is to write a Scenario in 1000 words or less that fits within the Future Scene's parameters - TIME, PLACE, and TOPIC.

Items to note as you write your Scenario:

- Your Scenario should have a title. This does not count toward the 1000-word limit.
- You will only be evaluated on the first 1000 words of your Scenario.
- Your name, Affiliate, school, location, etc., should not be in anywhere in the Scenario or its title.
- To download a PDF of the Future Scene, click "Toolbox" in the left menu, then click the link to download the Future Scene.

To save your work, click "Enter" at the bottom of the text box. If you exit without clicking Enter, your work will not be saved.

"A Petition from a Concerned Citizen"

Thursday, June 10, 2021

To whom it may concern,

G'day, my name is Dr. Marcella Han. Thank you for soliciting feedback on the legislative proposal to expand the trial for the Cognitive Equity Program.

I write to you today as a lifelong citizen of Kalgoorlie and a concerned member of this community; I am a graduate of the University of Western Australia and studied under Dr. Barry Marshall, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Most importantly, in this context, I am a doctor and team leader on the MindBand Therapy project with Magnify Your Mind Inc. (MYM). Based on my experience with the project so far, I believe that MYM has demonstrated its commitment and has provided valuable partnership to the underserved individuals of our community.

Before I expound further on MindBand Therapy, I want to first address the concerns raised regarding the adverse outcomes of the MindScrapper Implant. I am aware of the incident regarding the death of a patient, and sympathize with the reluctance around utilizing AI for treatment. However, the MindScrapper Implant is an invasive treatment that requires surgery and comes in direct contact with the brain. By contrast, MindBand Therapy uses transcranial magnetic stimulation guided by a friendly AI to target areas that need repair or strengthening. With this therapy, a headband containing micro-sized scanners are used to track brain waves in the patient via AI that identifies a patient's existing skills. With this information, our AI then designs and adapts a treatment over the course of four months that include auditory and visual stimulation. This improves the brain's electrical impulses, ultimately strengthening the patient's capabilities. The only downside with MindBand Therapy is that it takes time, but it allows our patients to self-reflect and engage as active participants in their respective journeys to recovery. The MindBand itself cannot remember, speak, or move for the patient; it can only amplify underlying signals to enhance what the patient is doing.

For this recent medical trial, we have named our AI "Madeleine," as we believe that triggering "Madeleine Moments" can unlock obscured neural functionality in our patients. Over the course of four months, we have been working with several patients, the most extreme case known here as Patient Alpha. Patient Alpha was in a serious hit-and-run car accident and qualified for the MindBand Therapy trial due to a clinical presentation of locked-in syndrome (where the only voluntary motor functions are eye movement) and trauma-induced amnesia. Our goal was to use the MindBand Therapy to bring back Patient Alpha's speech, motion, and memory. Short of death, losing both your body and your mind is perhaps the worst possible sentence that can be pronounced on anyone, but especially on an innocent young person.

Toward the end of the trial, Patient Alpha was able to experience the first of many "Madeleine Moments," meaning the patient had a spontaneous memory without the direct help of our AI. In this instance, the headband strengthened the patient's movement, but we could not get them to speak. Our AI "Madeleine" determined that the patient's speech was blocked behind the repressed memory of the accident. "Madeleine" then presented the patient with an option to relive the sequence of events leading up to the critical moment. Ultimately, Patient Alpha chose to remember, and our AI guided the patient through the process, which then triggered vague memories of that day. Up until this point, Patient Alpha had only communicated via eye movements and had not spoken; afterwards, the patient said the words "hungry" and "ice cream," because in the memory they were eating ice cream right before the accident. Now, the patient's memory is somewhat restored, and they continue to receive traditional physical, occupational, and speech therapies.

In the words of Proust, "We are healed from suffering only by experiencing it to the full." The purpose of MindBand Therapy is to restore a patient's autonomy, and MYM's greatest strength in this project was that we allowed the patient to make their own decisions. We should not be afraid of trauma if it helps the patient to recover, and treatment only works if the patient has the will to overcome the barriers and obstacles that they face. As always, we would employ this method of treatment only with permission from the patient (or a guardian/approved individual to sign on their behalf). Our biggest concern now, besides financial issues, is that MYM may shut down due to the unfair and inaccurate comparisons with the MindScrapper Implant. If this were to happen, the MindBand Therapy project would be cancelled, and people like Patient Alpha and their families would lose an avenue for hope. At the start of the trial, Patient Alpha was unable to speak, move, or remember after their accident, but the pace of recovery hastened rapidly after that initial breakthrough. At our most recent follow-up, Patient Alpha moved with confidence and spoke with clarity. Most importantly, Patient Alpha was able to conjure memories at will without requiring the assistance of the "Madeleine" AI.

Working in the medical profession can be a heavy burden that takes a psychological toll; despite one's best efforts, life and death remain outside of our control. My experience with the MindBand Therapy project and Patient Alpha reminds me of why I became a doctor in the first place, and why I currently choose to conduct research trials at MYM. When one person struggles or suffers, it impacts the wider network of family, friends, and more. MindBand Therapy seeks to heal not only the patient, but also their community of loved ones. That is why I humbly request that MYM be allowed to continue running the Cognitive Equity Program in Kalgoorlie, as well as to ship the program, especially MindBand Therapy, across Australia and internationally. If we can change one life, then we can change the world.

Thank you for taking the time to review my request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Marcella Han, M.D.

Magnify Your Mind, Inc.