Jake Robins’ Target Task Varying Task Complexity

My Target Task is **dropping a CV off in-person** for students applying for work experience positions or undergraduate students seeking employment whilst studying abroad.

To discuss what will make the task more difficult I used Skehan’s analysis of task complexity.

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| **Possible difficulties** | **Pedagogic task variable** |
| **Code complexity** | |
| The use of idiomatic / new language | Using elaborated input  Input flooding with models |
| Being asked to describe a certain situation from the past (work/personal experience) or answer a hypothetical question | Allow planning time for this |
| Being asked unfamiliar questions | Writing responses to these rather than answering in the moment |
| **Cognitive complexity** | |
| Having questions fielded in unstructured sequences (cognitive processing) | Start with logical sequences and become more randomly ordered |
| Unfamiliarity of the task (cognitive familiarity) | Watching examples of task performance  Task repetition and rehearsal |
| Performing a monologue about experience | Pre-planning and rehearsal |
| **Communicative stress** | |
| Completing the task under time pressure | Introducing a time constraint and increasing |
| Completing the task in a noisy environment | Introducing background noise |
| 2+ participants | Introducing more than 1 interlocutor |
| High stakes |  |

**What will make it easier:**

* Being prepared for and familiar with the predictable questions and moves made
* Talking about own skills/themselves (here and now) vs. recounting a time from the past (then and there)
* The fact of being a convergent task
* Planning time