

Example of an Informed Consent Form Oklahoma City Community College

Title of Project: Student Writing Analysis
Primary Investigator: Dr. John Doe, Professor of English
Secondary Investigator: Dr. Susan Frost, Professor of Sociology

Purpose of Study

Dr. John Doe and Dr. Susan Frost are inviting you to participate in a research project during the Fall 2007 Semester within English Composition I and Introduction to Sociology. The purpose of the research is to decide if granting extended periods of time and relaxation for writing assignments will influence the quality of student writing.

You may be participating in a research or control group. There are a total of 300 participants in the control group and 300 participants in the research group. If involved in the control group, you will write one essay assigned by your instructor. The essay will be timed at fifty minutes and must be submitted by the end of the fifty-minute class period.

If involved in the research group, you will write one essay assigned by your instructor. The essay will take place in a writing lab. You will have at least eight hours to complete the writing assignment. You will also have access to beverages, food, and other commodities.

Foreseeable Risks

There are no known risks related to the research study, although some discomfort may apply to the research group sitting and writing for an extended amount of time (up to eight hours). To minimize these risks, the research group is allowed to visit the writing lab's rest area at their convenience as long as they complete the assignment within eight hours. The rest area contains access to food, beverages, and other commodities.

Potential Benefits of the Research Study

Through your participation in this study, we will be able to recognize if a student's quality of work increases, decreases, or does not change based on the differently prescribed writing environments. This research will be potentially helpful for future professors at Oklahoma City Community College as they create the best atmosphere for student learning. By participating in this research study, you are also helping us contribute to the future success of students across other community college campuses.

Protection of Confidentiality

Your confidentiality is important to us. Your name will remain anonymous throughout the entire research process. We plan to use a number system allowing us to track your writing results without revealing your identity. In fact, the Writing Assignment Direction Sheet lists a number for your writing assignment and requires that you do not reveal your name in the study.

We will, however, tabulate your results as part of the research or control group. And, we may also quote directly from your work, but we will only refer to you as, for example, Student #32 or Student #87. Once again, we will not reveal your identity in any component of the research study and the publication of the material.

_____ (place your initials here and sign on the following page)

Voluntary Participation

The participation in the study is completely voluntary. If you decide to dismiss yourself from the research study at any time, you are allowed to do so. Also, if you withdraw your participation, your grade will not be penalized, nor will any other consequences incur. Though we want you to complete the study, you have every right to withdraw from participation. Withdrawing still maintains your protection of confidentiality.

Exclusion of Participation

If you are under the age of eighteen, for the purposes of this research study, you are excluded from participation. Also, if you have any physical conditions (i.e. pregnancy) that may cause discomfort during the research study, you are excluded from participation.

Termination of Participation

If you are caught plagiarizing the writing assignment or acting inappropriately during the research study, we have the right to withdraw you from the research study and suspend your consent form. Plagiarism is defined as copying from another person's work, stealing an essay from an online source, or using an essay already written from a previous classroom activity. Inappropriate behavior is defined as interrupting the other participants or acting out in a manner that interferes with the other participants' writing activities. Also, any student not completing all course work prior to the research study is terminated from participation.

Contact information

If any questions or concerns arise before, during, or after the research study, please contact us at (405) 682 -1611 or by email at jdoe@occc.edu or sfrost@occc.edu. If you have any questions regarding the project's procedures at the OCCC campus, please contact Dr. Janet C. Perry, IRB Chair at 405 682-1611 or email jcperry@occc.edu.

Consent

I have read and understand the explanation provided to me. I have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction, and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this consent form.

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____

Date _____