

COLLECTION OF DATA BY THIRD PERSON

Sample Consent Statement **[Project Title]**

Dear [name of course] Students:

You are invited to participate in a research study which aims at improving the learning of [subject]. As you already know, the goal of [name of course or course number] is to [purpose of class]. Whereas the curriculum employed in this course has been successful in general during the last few years, we are always looking for ways to improve the course, and make it more in accordance with current trends in education. We are in the process of modifying the _____ class to introduce new teaching strategies. While making these changes, we would also like to measure their effectiveness by comparing data from students in classes that are now being modified with data from students in classes that have not yet been changed. In this way we can determine whether the changes are effective, and whether additional changes will also be necessary.

The study will be conducted within the context of your regularly scheduled class sessions. Your participation should require no additional out of class time. At the beginning of the semester you will be asked to take [for example] a short 12 item test on _____. Other data used in the study will come from the multiple choice portion of your final exam which will not be modified in any way for use in the research. An instructor other than your instructor will distribute and collect this consent form and the pretest, so that your instructor will not know if you have participated until after the course is finished and grades entered.

Confidentiality of participants will be protected by destroying all data once it has been analyzed. All identifiers will be removed and no reference will be made to individual students in oral or written reports which could link you to the study.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide not to participate, the scores obtained on your tests will be used for your course grade but will not be used for the study. There will be no penalty for not participating. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time. After completion of the study, I will be happy to discuss the results with you. Should you have any questions while the study is in progress, or should you decide any time to withdraw, please contact the person who is collecting this consent form _____ by email or by calling _____. After the study is over and your grade had been posted I will be willing to answer any questions, or withdraw your data, if you wish.

If you are willing to participate in the study, please sign one of the two copies of this letter and return it to the _____. The second copy is for you to keep for reference.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact: Investigator's Name, Investigator's Department, at Investigator's email address and phone #. If you have any

questions about your treatment as a participant in this study, please contact the Chair of WCU's Institutional Review Board at 828.227.3177.

Thank you for your willingness to contribute your time.
We appreciate your considering to participate in this research and thus enabling us to improve instruction in the _____ course.

Thank you.
[name of instructor/researcher]

CONSENT

I have read and understand the above described information and have received a copy of this form. I agree to take part in the study.

Subject's signature _____ Date _____

Consent form date XX-XX-XX
Indiana University Bloomington
<http://www.research.iu.edu/rschcomp/exhibita.html>