



Informed Consent to Participate in Online Research

Title of the Project: **[insert]**

Researchers: **[Names and title / degree / department, university]**

Overview

You are invited to participate in a research study. The purpose of this study is to **[in layperson's terms, clearly state what the study is about]**.

Participation should take approximately **[minutes/hours/sessions]** to complete.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to take part in the study or exit the study at any time without any penalty. You can skip any question you do not wish to answer **[Pis: be sure you have it set so they can make a "no response" response to any questions or they can intentionally leave a response blank]**

Benefits and Risks

You will receive no direct benefits from participating in this research study. However, your responses may help us learn more about **[explain this in layperson's term; do NOT include payment information or course credit/extra credit as a "benefit." That belongs under Compensation]**. There are no foreseeable risks involved in participating in this study beyond that of everyday life.

OR

The risks from participating in this study may include **[Describe any reasonably foreseeable risks or discomforts to the subjects, including physical or emotional risks. For instance you might say, Some questions may be very personal or upsetting. You can skip any questions you don't want to answer, or stop the survey entirely.]**

Confidentiality and Risks Associated with Online Data

For online surveys hosted by a third party: This survey is being hosted by **(name the entity hosting the Web page/database used for data collection)** and **(involves/does not involve)** a secure connection. Terms of Service, addressing confidentiality, may be viewed at **provide URL**.

In addition to the responses you make, **you will/will not** provide any information that could identify who you are, such as your name, email address, IP address, user name/online identifier. **[If any of this information will be collected, discuss whether or not the information will be associated with survey responses: "That information will/will not be linked to your survey responses.] [explain why / what it will be used for (e.g., This information is necessary so that you can receive extra credit/your responses on future surveys can be linked with your responses on this survey)].**

The security of information transmitted through the internet cannot be guaranteed; there is a risk of it being hacked or intercepted. This is a risk you experience any time you provide information

online. We're using a secure system to collect this data **[elaborate if desired]**, but we can't completely eliminate this risk so there is a chance your data could be seen by someone who shouldn't have access to it. We're minimizing this risk in the following ways: **[Use whichever of the following bullet points apply to your study. Add any other measures you'll use to protect data security.]**

- Your responses are anonymous (i.e., we do not collect IP addresses, names, email addresses, or any personally identifying information, so that information cannot be linked to your responses). **– or –** All identifying information is removed and replaced with a study ID.
- We'll remove all identifiers after **[insert amount of time or specific event]**.
- We'll store all electronic data on a password-protected, encrypted computer.
- We'll keep your identifying information separate from your research data, but we will be able to link it to you. We'll destroy this link after we finish collecting and analyzing the data.
- This survey is administered through a group [enter the appropriate platform] account. Any individuals permitted to use this account, including [enter the appropriate individuals — administrators, staff, faculty, students, etc.], regardless of whether or not they are directly involved with this project, have unrestricted access to all aspects of the survey and the information gathered through it.
- **[use for MTurk surveys]** Amazon could link your worker ID (and associated personal information) with your survey responses. Make sure you have read Amazon's MTurk participant and privacy agreements to understand how your personal information may be used or disclosed.

[Sometimes researchers ask participants if they wish to participate in a follow-up interview and to provide contact information. In such a case you can add the following sentences:]

At the end of the survey you will be asked if you are interested in participating in an additional interview **[by phone, in person, or email]**. If you choose to provide contact information such as your phone number or email address, your survey responses may no longer be anonymous to the researcher. However, no names or identifying information would be included in any publications or presentations based on these data, and your responses to this survey will remain confidential.

Compensations

[If an incentive will be offered, explain what it is and how will the incentive be distributed. For drawings, include the following: when the drawing(s) will occur, how payment will be made, the value of the prize(s), the number of prizes, and the chances of winning. Acceptable terms include "payment," "reimbursement," "gift," "prize," "token of appreciation."]

Future Research

De-identified data (all identifying information removed) may be shared with other researchers. You won't be told specific details about these future research studies. **– or –** Your data won't be used or shared for any future research studies.

Contact

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions, or discuss concerns about this study with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact the Fairfield University IRB by email: irb@fairfield.edu.

If you have questions concerning the study, contact the researcher, **[name]**, at **[phone # and email]** **[Include graduate student name and contact as well as faculty mentor name and contact here if this is a student's project].**

Electronic Consent

Please select your choice below. You may print a copy of this consent form for your records. Clicking on the "Agree" button indicates that

- You have read the above information
- You voluntarily agree to participate
- You are 18 years of age or older

Agree

Disagree