

***Delete all instructions in red before submitting to the IRB.***

Instructions are in red. Customize the language in black as needed to fit your study. When you have finished, ***read over*** the entire document to ensure it makes sense and is accurate.

* Use simple language. Avoid technical terms.
* Write in a conversational tone, as though you’re speaking to your participants.
* Use pronouns (I, we, you) and contractions (we’re, won’t, isn’t). The template default is “we”; you can change this to “I” if you’re doing the research entirely on your own.
* Use short paragraphs (~4 lines or less). Don’t write walls of text.
* Feel free to use bullet points, tables, graphs, pictures, diagrams, etc. to more clearly convey the study information.

**Informed Consent for Research Participation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Study Title** | [insert] |
| **Researcher[s]** | [insert name(s) and title / degree / department, as applicable] |

We’re inviting you to participate in a research study. Participation is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate now, you can always change your mind later. There are no negative consequences, whatever you decide.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Information** | If the consent document (excluding signature lines) is more than 2 pages, it must begin with a concise and focused presentation of key information that will help a subject decide whether or not to participate. Complete this box with a very brief explanation in simple language for each line below. You can provide more details later in the document. (It is recommended you fill this out last, as you may not need to include it.)  For consent documents 2 pages or less, delete this “Key Information” box |
| **Summary** | Include:   * *Purpose of the research* * *Duration, number of study visits* * *Overview of study procedures* * *Other study specific information* |
| **Reasonable, Foreseeable Risks or Discomforts** | *EXAMPLE: "Risks and side effects related to the [procedures, drugs, interventions, devices] include those which are: Likely: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Less Likely: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rare but serious: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* |
| **Reasonable, Expected Benefits** | *EXAMPLE: "There will be no direct benefit to you from participating in the study.  However, this study will help researchers learn more about X and it is hoped that this information will help in the X." NOTE: THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE COMPENSATION* |
|  |  |

**What Is the Purpose of This Study?**

[Describe the purpose or goals in simple language]

**Examples:** We want to understand whether music helps the brain work better. **– or –** We want to study whether using an app to track what you eat helps you make healthier choices.

**What Will I Do?**

[Describe all study procedures in simple language. For studies with multiple activities, include the amount of time each activity will take, and use separate paragraphs or bullet points to make it easy to read.

If your study includes surveys and/or interviews, briefly describe the types of questions that will be asked. If there are any questions that participants could find objectionable, be sure to indicate that here as well.]

**Examples:** You’ll be in a focus group with about five other people. A focus group is a discussion with a group of people about a certain topic. You’ll discuss and share your experiences raising a child with autism, and ways that doctors and others could provide you more support.

**– or –**

* In our lab:
  + You’ll complete a survey about your health history and how often you exercise. (10 minutes)
  + We’ll measure your height and weight. (5 minutes)
  + We’ll teach you some exercises, and you’ll rate how easy and fun you think they would be to do. (45 minutes)
* At home afterward:
  + We’ll ask you to do each exercise for 5 minutes per day.
  + You’ll keep a daily diary for 2 weeks to keep track of how often you do these exercises, and give feedback about the exercises.
  + At the end of 2 weeks, you’ll mail the diary back to us in the envelope we provide.

**– or –**

I will ask you questions about how participating in X initiative has impacted my knowledge and attitudes about X. The total time will be about 30-45 minutes.

**Risks**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Possible Risks** | **How We’re Minimizing These Risks** |
| Some questions may be personal or upsetting [Delete this row if n/a] | You can skip any questions you don’t want to answer. |
| Others in the focus group could share your responses [Delete this row if not a focus group] | We ask everyone to keep everything said during the focus group confidential. However, we can’t control what others say, so it is best not to share anything you don’t want others to know. |
| Breach of confidentiality (your data being seen by someone who shouldn’t have access to it) | [Use whichever of the following bullet points apply to your study. Add any other measures you’ll use to protect data security.]   * Data is anonymous. **– 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 in a Furman Box folder. * We’ll store all paper data in a locked filing cabinet in the researcher’s locked office. * We’ll keep your identifying information separate from your research data, but we’ll be able to link it to you by using a study ID. We will destroy this link after we finish collecting and analyzing the data. |
| Online data being hacked or intercepted [delete this row if not an online survey] | * 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. |
| Amazon could link your worker ID and personal information with your survey responses. [delete this row if not an MTurk survey] | * Make sure you have read Amazon’s MTurk participant and privacy agreements to understand how your personal information may be used or disclosed. |
| Add more rows for any other risks – think about physical, emotional, social, and/or financial risks. |  |

There may be risks we don’t know about yet. Throughout the study, we’ll tell you if we learn anything that might affect your decision to participate.

**Other Study Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Possible benefits** | * [List individual benefits (if any). If none, state “There is no identified individual benefit to your participation this study”] * [List benefits to a larger group or society (such as helping understand more about xyz).]   **[Don’t** include compensation here; you’ll describe that below.] |
| **Estimated number of participants** | [Insert #. If needed, add explanation or description of different groups, e.g. 40 teachers and 300 students] |
| **How long will it take?** | [insert the total time commitment for the participant] |
| **Costs** | [Describe. **Examples:** None **– or –** You’ll pay for your own transportation and parking] |
| **Compensation** | [Describe. **Examples:** None **– or –** $10 Amazon gift card **– or –**  Research Credits] |
| **Future research** | De-identified (all identifying information removed) data 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. |
| **Recordings / Photographs** [Delete this row if n/a. NOTE: you will need separate consent for recordings and photographs at the end of this form] | We will record / photograph you. The recordings / photographs will be used for [explain].  The recording / photography is optional. **– or –** The recording / photography is necessary to this research. If you do not want to be recorded / photographed, you should not be in this study. |

**Confidentiality and Data Security**

[Include if applicable] We’ll collect the following personally identifying information for the research: [list. **Examples:** your name and email address]. This information is necessary [explain why / what it will be used for. **Example:** This information is necessary so that you can receive extra credit].

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Where Will Data Be Stored?** | [Explain] **Examples:** Data will be stored in a Furman Box folder where security can be safeguarded by the university |
| **How Long Will It Be Kept?** | [insert amount of time] |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Who Can See My Data?** | **Why?** | **Type of data** |
| The researchers | To conduct the study and analyze the data | [State the kind of data you will collect/keep, with a brief explanation what that means.] **Examples:** Identifiable (with your name included) **– or –** Coded (names removed and labeled with a study ID) **– or –** De-identified (no names, birthdate, address, etc. attached to the data) |
| Anyone (public) | If we share our findings in publications or presentations  [use if applicable] Our funding agency requires us to make our dataset public so other researchers can use it. | [State the kind of data that will be included in dissemination of your work, or in public datasets.] **Examples:**   * Aggregate (grouped) data * De-identified (no names, birthdate, address, etc.) * If we quote you, we’ll use a pseudonym (fake name) |
| Amazon [delete this row if not an MTurk survey] | Because they own the MTurk internal software, and to issue payment | * MTurk worker IDs * There is a possibility Amazon could link your worker ID (and associated personal information) with your survey responses. |
| Include additional rows if there is anyone else who might access the data. Describe the purpose of this disclosure and what type of data (identifiable, de-identified, etc.). |  |  |

**Who Do I Contact?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **For questions about the research, complaints, problems** | [insert PI] | [insert email/phone] |
| **For questions about your rights as a research participant, complaints, problems** | Chair, Institutional Review Board  (IRB; provides ethics oversight) | [Brianne.pochard@furman.edu](mailto:Brianne.pochard@furman.edu) or (864) 294-3468 |

**Signatures**

If you have had all your questions answered and would like to participate in this study, sign on the lines below. Remember, your participation is completely voluntary, and you’re free to withdraw from the study at any time. You must be 18 years or older to participate in this study. [Use as applicable]

Name of Participant (print)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant Date

**[Include additional consent statements and signatures if using video recording, audio recording, or photographs.]**