

Sample Child/Minor Assent – Written and Signed

The IRB suggests that investigators utilize a written and signed child assent form for older children/minors (in addition to obtaining parental consent). When drafting a written assent form, investigators may find it helpful to create a simplified version of an adult informed consent document, appropriate for the reading level of the subjects. Using simple language, short sentences, and bulleted points is also helpful; however, investigators should be aware that using language that is too simple or using the terms “children” or “child” (i.e. child assent form) may offend teenagers. The sample assent form below should be tailored appropriately.

ASSENT FORM

[Insert Study Title]

You are being asked to be part of a project. The project is about *[insert general statement about study]*. Your parents have already been told about the project. Please read this form and ask the researcher *[or teacher, if applicable]* any questions you have. It is your choice to be part of the project or not.

This project is being conducted by researchers at John Carroll University.

PROJECT INFORMATION

- The purpose of this project is *[explain the research question and purpose in simple terms]*.
- If you agree to be in the project you will be asked you to do the following things. *[In simple terms describe the procedures to be followed (include audio taping or videotaping if applicable). State the duration (subject time commitment) and location of the study.]*
- *If applicable, explain any expected risks or discomforts a subject may experience. Risks may be physical, emotional, risk of embarrassment, an uneasy feeling, etc.*
- *If applicable, explain benefits of participation that will be gained by the participants or others (Note: compensation is not a benefit).*
- *If applicable, explain the compensation which is reasonably expected such as extra credit, food, gift certificate.*
- *If applicable, list any alternatives to the study (i.e. subject may choose to do an alternative class assignment for extra credit instead of participating in the project.)*

PRIVACY

- The information from this project will be kept private. No names will be included in any reports written about the project.
- *If applicable, state that teachers and classmates will not see the information you give.*
- *If applicable and with respect to confidentiality and/or anonymity, explain how data and/or assent forms will be distributed, collected, returned, and handled to ensure privacy (i.e. will assent forms or surveys be sealed by subjects in separate envelopes before they are returned, etc.)*

- *If applicable, state how tape or video recordings will be made and used, who will have access to them, and when they will be erased or destroyed.*
- *If applicable (for class instructors), state that consent forms will be kept in a sealed envelope and not viewed until grades are posted to address potential coercion.*

THIS PROJECT IS VOLUNTARY

- This project is voluntary.
- There is no penalty or any bad feelings about you if you choose not to be in the project.
- Once you start the project you are always free to stop at any time.
- Even if your parents gave their permission, you can still decide not to be in the project or to stop at any time. The researchers will respect your decision.
- *If applicable, add a statement about loss of benefits such as “You will not lose your extra credit if you choose to stop” or “If you decide to stop it will not affect your grades.”*
- *If applicable, state that a subject may skip any questions they do not feel comfortable answering.*
- *If applicable, state that the subject may request the audio or video tape to be turned off at any time.*

QUESTIONS?

- The researchers conducting this project is/are [*Responsible Investigator and co-investigator, if applicable*] from John Carroll University.
- You may ask questions before you take part in the project. [*State who will be available to answer questions, when this person will be available, or if appropriate, how to contact the person*]

RETURN INSTRUCTIONS

- *Add any other instructions such as how to return the survey or assent forms (i.e. seal the assent form in the envelope provided, return the survey to the instructor, etc.)*

Please complete the form below if you want to be part of the project.

I want to be part of this project:

Name (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____