

Research Participant Information and Consent Form

You are being asked to participate in a research project. Researchers are required to provide a consent form to inform you about the study, to convey that participation is voluntary, to explain risks and benefits of participation, and to empower you to make an informed decision. You should feel free to ask the researchers any questions you may have.

Study Title: LiteracyCorps Michigan: An Oral History Documentary Project
Researchers and Title: Julie Lindquist, Associate Professor, RW
Bump Halbritter, Assistant Professor, RW
Department and Institution: Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, MSU
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1. PURPOSE OF RESEARCH:

We would like to invite you to participate in a research project that aims to document the development of literate lives of MSU, first-year undergrads from Michigan. We are interested in collecting life stories, and especially, to hear MSU students, like yourself, talk about their educational histories and hopes for the future. We are especially interested in having people tell us details of their family and community lives, experiences with schooling, and uses of technology—and how these have changed over time.

Our study will have three phases:

- 1) Initial interviews with 50+ participants on or near campus to gather general preliminary information in the form of stories related in some way to your educational experiences and life plans.
- 2) Follow-up interviews (in a nearby location of your choice) about more specific educational histories including reading and writing practices.
- 3) Video footage filmed on location in your neighborhood or community and interviews with friends, family members, and/or educators.

Note: If you are under 18, you may participate in this project only with signed, parental permission.

2. WHAT YOU WILL DO:

It is our hope that understanding more about the experiences of different kinds of students new to the reading and writing expectations of college will help us learn how to teach writing more effectively. We would like to distribute the results of our research in documentary films that feature videotaped interviews with students, interviews with students' families and friends, and video footage of significant places in their communities.

In consenting to participate in this project, you would be agreeing to

- Meet with us for a preliminary hour-long interview on or near campus. This interview will be videotaped.
- Be invited to participate in a follow-up interview (again videotaped) in a location of your choice.
- Release video footage from interviews for use in educational documentary films.
- Be contacted for possible participation in Phase Three of the project.

If you consent to participate in the project, you are of course free to withdraw from the study, or any portion(s) thereof, at any time. For example, you may wish to withdraw from participating in the video documentary—where you'll be clearly identifiable—but elect to allow your unidentified comments to be used as data in other parts of the study.

3. POTENTIAL BENEFITS:

The potential benefits to you for taking part in this study include the opportunity to reflect on your educational experiences and aims. You may also be asked to be one of approximately 5 participants to play a featured role in the documentary project and/or to become a project collaborator.

4. POTENTIAL RISKS:

Your participation in this study will not be anonymous nor will it ultimately be confidential. You will be identifiable in the video and audio taped portions of this project. Participation in the project may have social repercussions associated with the public distribution of your videotaped comments. Furthermore, in the acts of reflecting and responding during interviews, you may discover and/or discuss events that could be emotionally difficult.

5. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY:

The data for this project will be kept confidential until published or presented at professional meetings. Only the project investigators and reviewers will have access to the data collected. All video tapes and transcripts will be stored in locked files when not in use by the investigators. All electronic files will be stored on private external hard drives dedicated to this project; they will also be lock in a file cabinet when not in use. No information will be shared with other project participants during the data collection process.

6. YOUR RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE, SAY NO, OR WITHDRAW

Your participation is completely voluntary and study is not connected with coursework or evaluation of any kind. You have the right to say no.

Should you decide to participate, you may choose to withdraw from the study at any time, for any reason.

You may also refuse to answer particular questions or to release videotaped data.

To withdraw any data or any portion of your participation, please notify the principal investigators.

7. COSTS AND COMPENSATION FOR BEING IN THE STUDY:

Phases One and Two of the research (initial and follow-up interviews) will take place in the Fall and Spring semesters; Phase three will begin in the Spring of 2008 and continue into Summer and Fall 2008. If you participate only in Phase One of the project, you will be committing at most 2 hours of your time (for traveling to a location, setting up equipment, and conducting the interview). If you participate in Phases One and Two, you should plan to commit no more than 4 hours total. If you participate in Phase Three, the time commitment increases significantly, and will most likely require several days of your time over a weekend or term break.

You will receive no monetary or curricular compensation for your participation in this study.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

If you have any questions about this study or your participation in it please contact either of the following researchers directly:

Julie Lindquist
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If you have any questions about your role and rights as a research participant, or would like to register a complaint about this study, you may contact, anonymously if you wish, the Director of MSU's Human Research Protection Programs, Dr. Peter Vasilenko, at (517) 355-2180, FAX (517) 432-4503, or e-mail irb@msu.edu, or regular mail at: 202 Olds Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824.

12. DOCUMENTATION OF INFORMED CONSENT.

Your signature below means that you voluntarily agree to participate in this research study.

- _____ ○ I agree to allow audiotaping/videotaping of the interviews.

☐ Yes ☐ No Initials__

(Checking No will disqualify your participation in the study.)

- I agree to allow my voice, image, and/or identity to be disclosed in reports, presentations, and promotional materials.

☐ Yes ☐ No Initials__

(Checking No will NOT disqualify your participation in the study; however, data collected in your videotaped interviews will not be available for video-documentary productions and will be used only as confidential data.)

Signature

Date

Signature of Assenting Child (13-17; if appropriate)

Date

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.