

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY. In **lay language**, answer in spaces provided (add numbered and referenced sheets when necessary). Do not refer to an accompanying grant or contract proposal.

A. PURPOSE OF RESEARCH. Explain **1)** why this research is important and what the primary purposes are, and **2)** what question(s) or hypotheses this activity is designed to answer.

1) The research will add to knowledge of conceptual change in college students and contribute background information for rational environmental public policy. The primary purposes are (a) to investigate the nature of conceptual change, and (b) assess the environmental knowledge and conceptions of young adults enrolled in a Capstone course.

2) Research questions include: What are the conceptions of nature common in college students? How do they change during and after the capstone course? What events, experiences, or sources of information contribute to conceptual change?

B. RESEARCH PROCEDURES INVOLVED. 1. Provide a complete description of: a. the study design, and b. all study procedures that will be performed (e.g., presentation of stimuli, description of activity required, topic of questionnaire or interview, name of psychological test). Provide this information for each phase of the study (pilot, screening, intervention and follow-up). Attach study flow sheet, if desired.

Attach questionnaires, interview questions/topic areas, scales, and/or examples of stimuli to be presented to participants.

The research will be conducted on students who took the Liberal Arts "Capstone" course last semester. Students will volunteer to attend 1 hour interview sessions offered at several points during the semester. The tentative topic list for interviews is attached as Appendix A.

C. DECEPTION: If any deception or withholding of complete information is required for this activity, explain why this is necessary and attach a protocol explaining if, how, when, and by whom participants will be debriefed.

No deception will be employed.

D. PARTICIPANTS

1. Approximately how many participants will you need to **complete** this study?

Number 20 Age Range(s) _____

2. What characteristics (inclusion criteria) must participants have to be in this study? (Answer for each participant group, if different.)

They were enrolled in the "Capstone" course last semester AND they participated in an interview or filled out a survey regarding nature beliefs, OR they were in the section of Capstone taught by me.

3. Describe how you will recruit your participants and who will be directly involved in the recruitment. (Attach advertisements, flyers, contact letters, telephone contact protocols, web site template, etc.)

An e-mail message (Appendix B) will be sent to all of the students in my section of Capstone last fall, and a random sample of others who were interviewed or surveyed. The e-mail will explain the nature and motivation for the study and ask interested volunteers to REPLY. One week later a second "reminder" e-mail will go to those not responding. No further communications will be sent to those not replying.

4. How will you protect participants' privacy during recruitment? (Attach letters of cooperation & agreement from agencies, institutions or others involved in participant recruitment.)

Because UNI e-mail is password protected, it will be assumed that the participants' privacy is protected.

5. Explain what steps you will take during the recruitment process to minimize potential coercion or the appearance of coercion.

It will be made clear in the e-mail and on the consent form that there is no specific advantage to participating in the interviews, other than the opportunity of expressing one's opinion.

6. Will you give participants gifts, payments, services without charge, or course credit?

No Yes If yes, explain:

7. Where will the study procedures be carried out? If any procedures occur off-campus, who is involved in conducting that research? (Attach copies of IRB approvals or letters of cooperation from non-UNI research sites if procedures will be carried out elsewhere.)

On campus Off campus Both on- and off-campus

Do offsite research collaborators have human participants protection training?

No Yes Don't know Not applicable – no offsite collaborators

E. RISKS AND BENEFITS

1. All research carries some social, economic, psychological, or physical risk. Describe the nature and degree of risk of possible injury, stress, discomfort, invasion of privacy, and other side effects from all study procedures, activities, and devices (standard and experimental), interviews and questionnaires. Include psychosocial risks as well as physical risks.

No specific risks are discernable. Some students are mildly uncomfortable with disagreements of opinion that arise in interviews, but this is readily assuaged by emphasizing that disagreement is expected, valued, and inevitable, and that all views are respected in the context of the interview.

2. Explain what steps you will take to minimize risks of harm and to protect participants' rights and welfare. (If you will include protected groups of participants which include minors, fetuses in utero, prisoners, pregnant women, or cognitively impaired or economically or educationally disadvantaged participants, please identify the group(s) and answer this question for each group.)

The research is preceded by informed consent, and no deception is employed.

3. Study procedures often have the potential to lead to the unintended discovery of a participant's personal medical, psychological, and/or psycho-social conditions that could be considered to be a risk for that participant. Examples might include disease, genetic predispositions, suicidal behavior, substance use difficulties, interpersonal problems, legal problems or other private information. How will you handle such discoveries in a sensitive way if they occur?

Past experience indicates that these discoveries are highly unlikely in this research. If they occur they will be handled on an individual and private basis by the primary investigator.

4. Describe the anticipated benefits of this research for individual participants in each participant group. If none, state "None."

None. However, many of these students are preparing to graduate and leave UNI. They may value a chance to express their opinions about a course as controversial as Capstone... A sort of "exit interview".

5. Describe the anticipated benefits of this research for society, and explain how the benefits outweigh the risks.

Policy makers can benefit by having a better understanding of the cognitions of a segment of the general public on environmental issues. Educators can benefit by having a better understanding of how cognitive change occurs, especially concerning social issues currently considered controversial, important, or urgent. These benefits appear to outweigh nonspecific risks. The specific questions under investigation in this project have to do with " sleeper effects " or the persistence of changes in attitude attributable to the Capstone course. Any such effects have both theoretical and practical import.

F. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESEARCH DATA

1. Will you record any direct participant identifiers (names, Social Security numbers, addresses, telephone numbers, locator information, etc.)

No Yes If yes, explain why recording identifiers is necessary and describe the coding system(s) you will use to protect against disclosure.

First names only will be used during the interviews. No names will be used in data analysis beyond the primary records of the interview (video and hand taken notes).

2. Will you retain a link between study code numbers and direct identifiers after the data collection is complete?

No Yes If yes, explain why this is necessary and for how long you will keep this link.

3. Describe how you will protect data against disclosure to the public or to other researchers or non-researchers. Other than members of the research team, explain who will have access to data (e.g., sponsors, advisers, government agencies) and how long you intend to keep the data.

It is intended that no one other than the research team have access to the data. The data will be retained for 5 years.

4. Do you anticipate using any data (information, interview data, etc.) from this study for other studies in the future?

No Yes If "Yes," explain and include this information in the consent form.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Will you need access to participants' medical, academic, or other personal records for screening purposes or during this study?

No Yes. If yes, specify types of records, what information you will take from the records and how you will use them.

2. Will you make sound or video recordings or photographs of study participants?

- No Yes. If yes, explain what type of recordings you will make, how long you will keep them, and if anyone other than the members of the research team will be able to see them.

Interviews are videotaped. They will be retained for 5 years. Short segments less than a minute long may be used as parts of professional presentations (this is included in the interview consent form).

H. CONSENT FORMS Check all that apply.

- Written** (Attach a copy of all consent and assent forms for each participant group.)
 Oral (Attach a written script of oral consent and assent for each participant group.)
 Waiver (Attach written justification of waiver of consent)

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
HUMAN PARTICIPANTS REVIEW
INFORMED CONSENT
Interview**

Project Title: Conceptions of Nature: Interview

Name of Investigator: Jack Yates

Invitation to Participate: You are invited to participate in a research project conducted through the University of Northern Iowa. The University requires that you give your signed agreement to participate in this project. The following information is provided to help you made an informed decision whether or not to participate.

Nature and Purpose: The study investigates conceptions of nature and the environment held by college students previously enrolled in a capstone course. The researcher is interested in the diverse views of students and how those views are elaborated or affected by class information, activities, and experiences.

Explanation of Procedures: Data is collected in small group interviews lasting 1 hour. The investigator and research assistants will visit with the group concerning topics and issues arising in their Capstone class. Researchers will take notes during the interview. However, it is never possible to write down by hand everything that may be useful. If all group members consent the session will be videotaped so that it can be reviewed later.

Discomfort and Risks: The interview does not lead to any specific discomfort or risks. You might feel uncomfortable expressing your opinion on some issue. You are free to remain silent. However, you should recognize that the researchers value and respect all views expressed in the interview.

Benefits: The interview may help clarify your thinking on topics that may have arisen in your Capstone class

Confidentiality: Information obtained during this study which could identify you will be kept strictly confidential, with the exception that video clips of group discussion less than a minute long may be presented as part of a scholarly presentation.. Even in that case your name will not appear on screen or be used with the videotape, so that your anonymity will be preserved. The information on average or typical responses may be published in an academic journal or presented at a scholarly conference.

Right to Refuse or Withdraw: “I understand that my participation is completely voluntary. I have been advised that I am free to withdraw from participation at any time or to choose not to participate at all, and that by doing so I will not be penalized or lose benefits to which I am otherwise entitled.”

Questions: “I understand that the investigator(s) will answer any questions I have about my participation. I also understand that if I desire information in the future regarding my participation or the study generally, I can contact Dr. Jack Yates at 319-273-2051 at the Department of Psychology, University of Northern Iowa 319-273-2303. I can also contact the office of the Human Participants Coordinator, University of Northern Iowa, at 319-273-2748, for answers to questions about rights of research participants and the participant review process”.

Conclusion:

I am fully aware of the nature and extent of my participation in this project as stated above and the possible risks arising from it. I hereby agree to participate in this project. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of this consent statement. I am 18 years of age or older.

(Signature of participant)

(Date)

(Printed name of participant)

(Signature of investigator)

2-20-03

(Date)