

Consent Form: Instructions and Sample

Instructions are given in red font.

Describe the project and the participant's commitment. If deception is needed, provide for an out-briefing.

I am seeking your participation in a research project involving a study concerned with parenting skills. If you agree to participate, you will be asked questions about children, daemons and monsters that you may or may not have. The questionnaire will take you five to ten minutes.

Describe risks and benefits. If confidentiality is required, describe how it is achieved. If confidentiality is not required, make it clear that the names and data can be connected. If confidentiality is desired, keep the signed consent materials separate from the research materials (e.g. survey).

Risks to participants should be low. The intent of this study is not to cause any emotional harm; therefore, if you feel uncomfortable answering questions of a personal nature you are not required to respond. Your name will not be recorded on the interview sheets, your signed consent will be kept separate from the data and your identity will remain anonymous. Your replies will be known to Mary Shelley only, and may be statistically summarized and reviewed by students in Dr. Victor Frankenstein's Statistics and Methods LXI course. You may be assured that any reports of this research will contain only data of an anonymous or statistical nature.

Any benefits to participants are educational only.

Identify contact persons. List any requirements for participation. Minors need separate parental consent. Statements like the one regarding minors might best be at the beginning so readers who can't participate learn so early on.

The data from this questionnaire will be used in a research report for Statistics and Methods LXI that will be completed by Mary Shelley. Any questions you have regarding this research may be directed to Mary at mshelley@trinity.edu or to Dr. Frankenstein at vfranken@trinity.edu. This project has been approved by the Trinity University Institutional Review Board. For information regarding the IRB approval, please contact Dr. Jane Childers, IRB Chair, at 999-8327 or via Jane.Childers@Trinity.edu.

You must be 18 or older to participate. Your signature below indicates that you agree to participate in this research and further indicates that:

1. You have read and understand the information written above;
2. You understand that participation is voluntary and that refusal to participate will not penalize you in any way; and
3. You understand that you are free to withdraw from participation at any time without penalty.

Participant

Date

Interviewer

Date

Low risk studies like most student surveys don't need **signed** consent (esp. if done using email or Survey Monkey). In those cases, you may conclude the descriptive materials with a statement like: "By completing the survey, you are indicating you've read the consent materials and do agree to participate." Participants should get a copy of the consent document to keep if they wish.