

Consent to Participate in Research

Study Title

Writing Transfer

Study Purpose and Rationale

Instructors from various disciplines have often complained that students do not come in their classrooms with sufficient intellectual baggage to deal with their course. Worse, some who have taught the same students in different courses also made this very criticism. These observations highlight the existence of issues concerning students' use of prior knowledge in novel contexts. Transfer has become the subject of research within many fields and fairly recently in the Composition studies. The existing body of literature mainly focused on the relationship between the tools of transfer, the subjects or agents of transfer, and the objects of transfer. Through surveys and interviews, this study seeks to discover the extent to which skills and concepts taught in FYC are transferable to writing in the discipline. This study will add to current research by considering uncharted areas in regard to transfer, and in particular by looking at the ways in which FYC skills and concepts are being reinforced or ignored in other contexts. This data will aid writing instructors to integrate strategies to maximize positive transfer.

Participation Procedures and Duration

This interview will be conducted face to face at a place at your classmates' and your instructor's discretion. You shall have the freedom not to answer questions that may cause you discomfort or that you wish not answer. It will last about 20 minutes. Your instructor will not be informed of either your participation or your non-participation in the project.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

You must be 18 years or older to participate in this study.

Audio Recordings and Data Storage

For purposes of accuracy, with your permission, the face-to-face interview will be audio recorded and transcribed. The audio files will be stored on a password-protected computer. All recordings will be kept for the duration of the research project, but will be destroyed upon request or after three years. Only the researcher will have access to the data.

Data Confidentiality or Anonymity

All data will be maintained as confidential. Your identity will be protected by use of a pseudonym.

Risks or Discomforts

Being interviewed may result in feelings of discomfort. You may ask the researcher to terminate the interview, and you may quit the study at any time without penalty or prejudice.

Who to Contact Should You Experience Any Negative Effects from Participating in this Study

Should you experience any feelings of discomfort while participating in this study, there are counseling services available to you as a BSU student through the Counseling Center at Ball State University, 765-285-1376.

Benefits

One benefit you may gain from participating in this study may be a better understanding of your writing practices. The overall study results may also be used to help your instructor adopt strategies that would facilitate positive writing transfer.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw your permission at any time for any reason without penalty or prejudice. Participation in this study will not affect your class grades in any way. Please feel free to ask any questions to the investigator before signing this form and at any time during the study.

IRB Contact Information

For one's rights as a research subject, please contact the Director of the Office of Research Integrity, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, (765) 285-5070, irb@bsu.edu.

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Consent

I, _____, agree to participate in this research project entitled, "Writing Transfer." I have had the study explained to me and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I have read the description of the project and give my consent to participate. I understand that I will receive a copy of this informed consent form to keep for future reference.

Participant's Signature

Date

Researcher Contact Information

Principal Investigator:

Supervisor: