

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

Dear Parent of an Introductory Psychology student at Florida State University:

I am a professor in the FSU Psychology Department where I am working in collaboration with other faculty members whose research involves undergraduate students as subjects. We would like to invite your son or daughter to participate in a survey entitled "Behaviors, Attitudes and Beliefs Survey of Florida State University Students," but your consent is needed because he or she is a minor. The purpose of this project is to screen prospective participants for studies relevant to better understanding of the relationships between students' behaviors and their individual characteristics, attitudes and beliefs across a variety of domains such as personality, habits, mental health, and social interactions. You should be aware that some of the questions deal with sensitive issues like racial attitudes, substance use, thoughts and feelings about death (including suicide), and sexual behavior, but that students are free to omit any items they choose.

You should also understand that completion of the survey may make students eligible for selection for studies that enable them to earn credits toward the research experience element of the introductory psychology course (PSY 2012) in which your son or daughter is currently enrolled. However, participation in the survey neither guarantees selection for other studies nor obligates one to accept invitations to participate in them and there will be other options available for satisfying the research experience requirement if you withhold your consent. Participation in the survey involves nothing more than online completion of a series of questionnaires. The anticipated time commitment is approximately 30 minutes for each of two parts (total time = one hour) and students will be compensated by receiving one (1/2) research participation credit point in exchange for their time and cooperation in connection with each part (total credit available = 1).

All students' participation in the survey is totally voluntary and they may discontinue participation at anytime without penalty or prejudice and it will not affect grading in the course. If one decides to stop, s/he will still be entitled to credit for the time spent on the part that was initiated. All answers to the questions will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law and will be assigned a subject code number to conceal participants' identities. Only researchers involved in this project will have access to the data and student contact information will be used only for recruitment purposes. No one other than research personnel involved in this collaborative project will have access to the link between responses and contact information. This link will be destroyed at the end of the term in which the survey is completed. No names will appear on any of the results and no individual responses will be reported. Only group findings will be reported. All de-identified data will be stored in secure laboratory files in the FSU Psychology building and will be destroyed no later than ten years after participation.

You should understand that participation in this study could involve exposure to a minimal level of risk. This might occur because thinking about behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs concerning sensitive personal topics could cause an occasional student some distress. I will be ordinarily be available to discuss any such concerns that might arise. In the unusual event that any discomfort cannot be addressed adequately by talking about it with me or if I am unavailable for any reason and the student's concerns are urgent, s/he will be instructed to call the Big Bend counseling hotline at 211 for immediate assistance 24 hours a day. If necessary, hotline personnel may make referrals for free counseling at FSU's Thagard Student Health Center or at the FSU Psychology Clinic, where services are available at reduced fees based on income. Please be assured that such actions have not proved necessary in any prior semester and that students are always free to skip any items or questionnaires they choose and/or to end participation at any time for any reason, including personal discomfort. This will be made clear when your student is asked to give assent to participate.

There are also some modest potential benefits associated with participation in this research project. First, it might enhance awareness of the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors your student experiences and this could promote positive changes. Second, your student's responses could provide researchers with a valuable means to advance understanding of these important responses. Finally, by completing the questionnaires, students earn credit toward the research experience requirement of the introductory psychology course and could become eligible for selection into future research projects that will also help fulfill this requirement designed to promote understanding of investigative processes in psychological science.

Please understand that your consent may be withdrawn at any time without prejudice, penalty, or loss of benefits to which your son or daughter might be entitled. You should also be aware that you may contact me through the FSU Psychology Department in person, by phone (850-644-6065), or via email (allang@psy.fsu.edu) if you have any questions about this research. If you have questions about your or your student's rights as a participant in this research, or if you feel your child has been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Committee, Institutional Review Board, through the Office of the Vice President for Research, at (850) 644-8633 or eharper@admin.fsu.edu.

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FSU Human Subjects Committee approved on 7/26/10. Void after 12/8/10. HSC# 2010.4826

I give consent for my child _____

(print student's name above)

to participate in the project entitled "Behaviors, Attitudes and Beliefs Survey of Florida State University Students," described on the reverse side of this page.

Signature of parent or guardian _____

Date _____

Printed name of parent or guardian _____