Sample Letter of Consent

Hello, we are performing an experiment as part of our Psychology class. ***We are investigating one’s ability to estimate the answer to a mathematical problem.*** We would like to ask you to be part of our experiment.

If you agree to take part in this experiment, you should know that:

* All data that we obtain will be kept confidential and anonymous.
* You may stop participating in this experiment at any time.
* You shall receive information about the nature of the experiment and our results after we have obtained results.
* The experiment will ***take about five minutes*** to complete.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, understand the nature of this experiment and I agree to participate voluntarily. I give the researchers permission to use my data as part of their experimental study.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parental signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sample Script:

Good morning. Thank you for already agreeing to participate in this experiment on memory.

First, I will give you a paper to sign. This is called an informed consent letter. You should know that you are entitled to withdraw from the experiment in case you change your mind. Don’t hesitate to ask questions if you have any. After you have signed the paper, I will read some instructions about the experiment to you.

Please listen carefully and do not talk to the other participants. The other experimenter will now distribute a piece of paper to you.

Please take out a pencil to write on the paper when I instruct you to do so.

The aim of this experiment is to investigate recall of different words. The experiment consists of two stages and in each stage you will have to recall as many words as you can.

(Reverse these directions for participants who choose B)

First, I will read a list of 20 words, one at a time, very slowly and then I will ask you to remember the words. I will read the words twice, and after that you’ll have 2 minutes to write as many of those words as you remember on the piece of paper in front of you in any order that you can remember them. They do not have to be in the order given. Then I will collect the paper.

I will then repeat the same procedure in the second stage of this experiment.

Do you have any questions? (answer questions)

Okay, great. I will now read the words very slowly. (read words twice, pausing between each word for a count of 3 in your head)

You have 2 minutes to write as many words as you recall in any order. (time for 2 minutes)

I will now collect your paper. (collect paper)

We will now begin the 2nd part of the experiment and the other researcher will distribute a 2nd piece of paper.

This time I will read the 20 different words, one at a time, very slowly and you will be asked to remember those words. I will read the words twice, and you will then have 2 minutes to recall as many of the words as you can in any order.

I will now read the words very slowly. (read words twice, pausing between each word for a count of 3 in your head)

You have 2 minutes to write as many words as you recall in any order. (time for 2 minutes)

I will now collect your paper. (collect paper)

**Debriefing:**

This experiment investigated whether it was easier to recall concrete words or abstract words. Previous research has demonstrated that there is a higher recall of concrete words than abstract words.

If you are interested you can know the full results of the experiment, they will posted outside of room 302 in March.

Thank you very much for your participation. Remember that your results will remain confidential and you do still have the right to withdraw your results if you wish.

Do you have any questions?