

**Informed Consent to Participate in a Research Study**

*Study Title*

*First Name Last Name, Degree(s)*, Principal Investigator

*Introduction*

You are invited to be in a research study. Research studies are designed to gain scientific knowledge that may help other people in the future. You may or may not receive any benefit from being part of the study. There may also be risks associated with being part of research studies. If there are any risks involved in this study then they will be described in this consent. Your participation is voluntary. Please take your time to make your decision, and ask your research doctor or research staff to explain any words or information that you do not understand.

*Why is this study being done?*

The purpose of this study is to *[Give brief explanation as to why study is being done.]*

***[Example: Correlational study]***

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the relationship between how much students sleep and how often they get sick.

***[Example: Experimental study]***

The purpose of this study is to test the effects of ambient lighting on attention.

***[Example: Asch’s conformity study using deception]***

The purpose of this study is to determine if the amount of lighting in a room affects participants’ abilities to judge the length of solid lines.

*How many people will take part in this study?*

About *[state total accrual goal here]* people will take part in this study*.*

*What is involved in participating in this research study?*

*[Provide a simplified list of tests and procedures and their frequency. Include whether a participant will be at home, in a classroom or laboratory, or in a medical setting. List tests and procedures as appropriate. Use bulleted format. Identify any procedures that are experimental...(that is, what is being done as part of the research and what would be done anyway)]*

***[Example: Correlational study]***

You will be asked to complete a survey online. The sleep portion of the study will include questions such as how much sleep you typically get on different nights, how long it typically takes you to fall asleep, and how often you nap. The illness portion of the survey will ask about how often you experience different types of illness and will include a few questions about your general medical history. You will also be asked to provide information about other factors related to illness, such as your living arrangements and your typical stress levels.

***[Example: Experimental study]***

You will be asked to complete a common task used to assess attention span two separate times. During one round, the lighting in the room will be a bright bluish white similar to fluorescent lights. During the other round, the lighting in the room will be a “warmer” light more similar in color to candlelight.

***[Example: Asch’s conformity study using deception]***

You will be assigned to one of two lighting groups: “cool” light (bluish white similar to fluorescent lights) or “warm” light (reddish light similar to candles), and then you will be directed to a room light with that light. Once in the room, you will be seated at a table and asked to judge the lengths of several solid black lines.

*How long will you be in the study?*

You will be in the study for about *[months/weeks, until a certain event] [Where appropriate state the duration of long-term follow up.]* You may stop participating at any time without any penalty. You may also skip any aspect of the study or question that you would prefer not to complete, but this may result in your discontinuation from the study as a whole. The study researcher may stop you from taking part in this study at any time if they believe it is in your best interest, if you do not follow the study rules, or if the study is stopped.

***[Example: Single-session study]***

This study will take about *[\_\_\_\_\_\_]* minutes to complete. You may stop participating at any time without any penalty. You may also skip any aspect of the study or question that you would prefer not to complete, but this may result in your discontinuation from the study as a whole. The study researcher may stop you from taking part in this study at any time if they believe it is in your best interest, if you do not follow the study rules, or if the study is stopped.

***[Example: Multi-session study]***

This study will take about *[\_\_\_\_\_\_]* weeks from start to finish. You may stop participating at any time without any penalty. You may also skip any aspect of the study or question that you would prefer not to complete, but this may result in your discontinuation from the study as a whole. The study researcher may stop you from taking part in this study at any time if they believe it is in your best interest, if you do not follow the study rules, or if the study is stopped.

*What are the risks of participating in this study?*

*[List any potential risks, including potential physical, emotional, and/or social impacts.]*

***[Example: “No more than minimal risk” study]***

There are no expected risks associated with participating in this study. However, there may be effects that we cannot predict. If you have any concerns, please contact the researchers immediately.

***[Example: “No more than minimal risk” study on illicit drug use]***

There are no expected risks associated with participating in this study. However, there may be effects that we cannot predict. Because of the sensitive nature of the questions you will be asked, additional precautions have been taken to ensure the confidentiality of your responses. If you have any concerns, please contact the researchers immediately.

***[Example: “More than minimal risk” study on trauma]***

There are no expected risks associated with participating in this study. However, asking about sensitive topics may bring up destressing thoughts or feelings. If you experience any distress, please contact the Hanover College Counseling Services at (812) 866-7399 or in the Campus Center. If you have any other concerns, please contact the researchers immediately.

***[Example: “More than minimal risk” study]***

Being in this study involves some risk to you. You should discuss the risk of being in this study with the study staff. You should talk to your study doctor about any side effects that you have while taking part in the study.

Risks and side effects related to the *[procedures, drugs, interventions, devices]* we are studying *include: [Describe the immediate and long-term physical, psychological, social and reproductive risks/discomforts of participating in the study. Highlight or otherwise identify those that may be irreversible, long-term or life threatening. Provide an estimate of the frequency of the risks/discomforts. If possible categorize risks/discomforts as Likely, Less Likely, Rare but serious, etc., as opposed to a long unbroken list of every side effect ever noted.]*

There may also be other side effects that we cannot predict. You should tell the research staff about all the medications, vitamins and supplements you take and any medical conditions you have. This may help avoid side effects, interactions and other risks.

*Are there benefits to taking part in this study?*

If you agree to take part in this study, there may or may not be direct benefit to you. *[Describe the benefits an individual participant could reasonable expect from participating in the study.* ***Note: compensation/extra credit does not count as a direct benefit of participating in the study****]*

***[Example: “No benefit” study.]***

If you agree to take part in this study, there may or may not be direct benefit to you. We hope that the information learned from this study will benefit other people in the future, but there are no expected direct benefits to you as a participant in this study.

***[Example: Anti-smoking intervention study]***

If you agree to take part in this study, there may or may not be direct benefit to you. We hope the information learned from this study will benefit other people in the future, but you may also benefit directly by receiving coaching on how to quit smoking.

*What other options do I have?*

***[Example: Study using course credit as compensation]***

You are not required to participate in this study. If you are taking a course that includes a research requirement as part of the grade, you may participate in studies other than this one. If you do not wish to participate in research at all, your professor will provide you with an alternative assignment.

***[Example: Intervention study]***

You do not have to be in this study to receive treatment. You should talk to your doctor about all the choices you have. Instead of being in this study, you have these options:

*[List commonly available alternatives.]*

*What about confidentiality?*

***[Example: Study that involves collection of personal identifying information]***

Your confidentiality will be protected to the full extent provided by law. Your data will be assigned a code number in order to connect your survey responses to your hair samples. Your name and contact information will be collected in order to send you weekly surveys, reminders, and compensation and will be deleted upon your completion of or withdrawal from the study. Surveys will be completed through the Qualtrics online survey platform, which has many security safeguards in place to ensure that your responses are protected (<https://www.qualtrics.com/security-statement/>). Only members of the research team will have access to your data at any point.

***[Example: Study that does not include collection of personal identifying information]***

Your name, contact information, and other personal identifying information will not be collected as part of this study, so it will not be possible for anyone to identify you as a participant.

***[Example: Study that includes video recordings]***

Your confidentiality will be protected to the full extent provided by law. You will be assigned a code number in order to connect your survey responses to your video recordings. All video recordings will be destroyed on *[list date (usually 1 year after study starts)]* or at the end of the study, whichever comes first. Prior to being destroyed, video recordings will be stored on an encrypted hard drive accessible only to the researchers.

***[Example: Study that includes video recordings that will not be destroyed (there needs to be a solid reason for not destroying it, particularly if you can see the participants’ faces)]***

Your confidentiality will be protected to the full extent provided by law. You will be assigned a code number in order to connect your survey responses to your video recordings. Video recordings will be stored on an encrypted hard drive accessible only to the researchers.

*What are the costs of participating in this study?*

***[Example: Standard study]***

There is no cost to you for taking part in this study.

***[Example: Study that involves additional supplies provided by the researchers]***

There are no costs to you for taking part in this study. You will be provided with all of the supplies you will need in order to complete this study.

***[Example: Study that requires participants to exercise three times a week]***

There are no additional costs that are required for you to participate in this study. However, if you choose to purchase exercise equipment or a gym membership in order to complete the weekly exercise requirement, you will be responsible for those costs.

*Will you be paid for participating?*

*[If compensation for participation is available, list conditions, such as dollar amount per visit or payment upon study completion.]*

***[Example: Multi-visit study with monetary compensation]***

You will be paid $10 for the initial study visit, $5 for each weekly check-in survey, and an additional $20 for the final study visit for total possible compensation of $120. If you withdraw or discontinue the study for any reason, you will not be required to return the money you have been paid so far.

***[Example: Volunteer-only study (no compensation or course credit)]***

There is no payment or other compensation available for participation in this study.

***[Example: Study where participants can receive course credit]***

You will receive no monetary payment for taking part in this study, but you will receive 1 SONA credit for your participation.

*Who is funding this study?*

*[If you do not have external grant/corporate funding, omit this section.]*

**[*Example: Study on a new stress-reduction app, and the developers of the app are paying you to conduct the research/compensate participants]***

This study is being sponsored by *[Name of company].* The sponsor is providing money or other support to help conduct this study, but the researchers do not hold a direct financial interest in the company and will not benefit financially based on the results of this study.

***[Example: Study being funded by a government grant]***

This study is being funded by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

*What are your rights as a research study participant?*

Taking part in this study is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study or skip any questions without penalty. *[Include any details if there are additional steps for discontinuing]*

***[Example: Survey-based study being conducted via Qualtrics]***

Taking part in this study is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study or skip any questions without penalty. Because responses are saved automatically, you will need to contact the researchers if you want your data completely removed from the study.

***[Example: In-person study]***

Taking part in this study is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study or skip any questions without penalty. If you decide that you do not want to complete part of the study or do not want to continue at all, please simply let the researcher know.

***[Example: Study in which materials need to be returned]***

Taking part in this study is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study or skip any questions without penalty. If you decide that you do not want to complete part of the study or do not want to continue at all, please simply let the researcher know, and you will be sent a postage-paid box to return any study equipment you have been given.

***[Example: Study in which abrupt discontinuation can be dangerous]***

Taking part in this study is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study or skip any questions without penalty. However, because of the potential for withdrawal effects, it is strongly recommended that you do not stop taking the study medication all at once. Please let the study researchers know that you do not want to continue, and they will advise you on how to safely stop the medication.

*Who do you call if you have any questions or problems?*

For questions about the study or in the event of a research-related injury, contact the study investigator, *Name* at *Telephone number (also include after hours number)* or *email address.*  You should also call the investigator if you have a concern or complaint about the research.

For questions about your rights as a research participant, contact the Hanover College Institutional Review Board (IRB) chair at IRB@hanover.edu. You may also contact the IRB chair if:

* You have concerns or complaints about the research.
* The research staff cannot be reached.
* You want to talk to someone other than the research staff.

***SIGNATURES***

You agree to take part in this study and confirm that you are 18 years of age or older. You have had a chance to ask questions about being in this study and have had those questions answered. By signing this consent form you are not giving up any legal rights to which you are entitled.

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Participant Name (Printed)

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Participant Signature Date

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Person Obtaining Consent Date