*INFORMED CONSENT – ANONYMOUS INTERNET/ONLINE RESEARCH*

*TEMPLATE AND INSTRUCTIONS*

The following page contains a template to guide an informed consent process for anonymous research conducted completely online. *Please note: with slight modifications, this text can also be used for anonymous researcher conducted via mail.*

Instructions:

1. Download and save this template file to your computer.

2. Edit the document on the next page as appropriate for your study replacing all bracketed, highlighted areas with information that is pertinent to your specific study.

3. Review and modify all non-bracketed/highlighted text to ensure that it is also appropriate for your study.

4. Save your edited text.

5. Insert this text into your online survey as the first page or paragraph. Upload the final version of your online survey, including this opening consent language, into the Portal where appropriate.

Additional Notes

1. The Code of Federal Regulations for human participant’s research provides guidance on the required elements of informed consent. For further information, see [http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/45cfr46.html#46.116](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/45cfr46.html%2346.116)

This template document was created primarily to provide a general structure for researchers to address these elements. Further modifications to the template pertaining to your particular project are necessary. Please check your constructed consent form against the Federal Code above.

1. Obtaining informed consent is a crucial part of conducting research with human participants ethically. Therefore, this language is an integral part of the review of research applications. Please construct it carefully and provide all information needed to would-be participants.
2. This form is for anonymous research only (typically conducted online); templates for minor assent and for written adult consent are available on the Portal homepage.
3. Please email irb@gcsu.edu for additional questions or clarification if needed.

INFORMED CONSENT

*(sample: please substitute your project information where appropriate)*

{TITLE OF RESEARCH STUDY}

You are being invited to participate in a research study about {explain the study’s purpose in a few words}. This study is being conducted by {insert name of PI and name of faculty sponsor (if PI is a student, and contact information (at least phone number and email address)} at Georgia College.

OPTIONAL: You were selected as a possible participant in this study because {explain succinctly and simply why the prospective subject is eligible to participate, if applicable}.

The questionnaire(s) will take about {approximate amount of time} to complete.

This survey is anonymous. Do not indicate your name on the survey. {Indicate how you will provide anonymity (e.g., not collect IP addresses)}. No one will be able to identify you or your answers, and no one will know whether or not you participated in the study. {If you are asking for emails or other contact information for compensation, follow-up, etc., explain how this information will not be linked to their responses and how their participation will be kept confidential}

This research project is being conducted because of its potential benefits, either to individuals or to humans in general. The expected benefits of this study include {any anticipated benefits, either to individuals or to humans in general}.

You are not likely to experience physical, psychological, social, or legal risks beyond those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine examinations or tests by participating in this study.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. By {continuing with this survey / clicking “Continue” / clicking “I agree” , etc. –whatever the participant is to do to indicate their consent to participate} you are voluntarily agreeing to participate and you are acknowledging that you are **18 years of age or older**. You are free to stop answering questions at any time or to decline to answer any particular question you do not wish to answer for any reason. If you are younger than 18, do not proceed.

*\*Research at Georgia College involving human participants is carried out under the oversight of the Institutional Review Board. Address questions or problems regarding these activities to Dr. Whitney Heppner, GC IRB Chair, CBX 090, GC, email:* [*irb@gcsu.edu*](mailto:irb@gcsu.edu)*; phone: (478) 445-0870.\**