

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your son or daughter is currently enrolled in a psychology class at Creighton University. One of the goals of psychology classes is to familiarize students with the process of psychological research. The lectures in class outline the basics of psychological research. To aid learning, students also are offered the opportunity to participate in an actual research project that is conducted by members of the psychology department.

Because the legal age of majority is 19 years old in the state of Nebraska, Creighton University requires parental permission for students who are under the age of 19 years to participate in the research projects. Because your son or daughter is currently under the age of 19 years, we need your permission before s/he can volunteer to participate in the research projects.

Participation in these studies involves no more than minimal risk such as that ordinarily encountered in daily life or during routine psychological examinations or tests. Your child's benefits for participation include the opportunity to learn about a particular area of current psychological research and develop a better understanding of the methods employed in psychological research. Your child will be compensated for his/her time with credit in a psychology class. If you do not give your permission for your child's participation, or your child chooses not to participate, alternatives to research participation are available for students to earn equivalent class credit. Your child's participation in these research projects is completely voluntary and s/he has the right to withdraw from studies at any time without penalty or prejudice.

Examples of research projects that we have conducted in the past include completing simple attitude surveys, looking at people's reasons behind their candidate selection in an election, remembering and identifying visual pictures, and participating as a juror in a mock trial.

Although summary information from these studies may be presented in scientific reports at professional meetings and/or published in scholarly journals, no information that could identify individual participants is released. In other words, your child's participation is strictly confidential.

Your signature indicates that you have read the material presented above and agree to allow your son/daughter _____ to participate in research projects of his/her choice as a means of earning credit in a psychology class at Creighton University.

Signature _____

Date _____

If you have any questions about research participation by students in the Introductory Psychology class, you may contact the Chair of the Psychology Department at (402) 280-2821.

If you are not satisfied with the manner in which this study is being conducted, you may report (anonymously if you so choose) any complaints to the Institutional Review Board by calling (402) 280-2126, or addressing a letter to the Institutional Review Board, Office of Grants Administration, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.

If you elect to sign this permission form, please return the form to your son/daughter as soon as possible. Thank you.