Parents of students under 18: Please read this form and, if you agree, sign it and mail it back to:
Mr. Patrick Seder, UVA Dept. of Psychology, P.O. Box 400400, Charlottesville VA 22902
Or fax just the 2nd page to: (434) 982-4766

Informed Consent Agreement: Parental Version
Research Experiments for Psychology Students in 100 and 200-level Courses
Department of Psychology, University of Virginia

Your son or daughter at the University of Virginia is enrolled in a psychology course where he or she is
asked to fulfill a research participation requirement. Psychological is relatively unique among the sciences
in that students can learn about the discipline with direct experience. Students who are under 18 years old
need to have permission from a parent or guardian to participate in research studies. Students are not
required to participate – there is another way to fulfill the requirement. Please read this agreement
carefully to decide if you wish to give your permission.

Purpose of the research studies: Students are asked to participate in 6 hours of psychology experiments
in return for credit toward their course grade. These experiments are designed to increase our knowledge
of psychological theories and processes and to provide students with an understanding of the research
methods used by psychologists.

Alternatives to participating in these studies: If you do not wish your son or daughter to participate in
these experiments, alternate assignments that are equivalent in time and effort are available from the
instructor. For example, the assignments may involve reading research articles and preparing abstracts for
them. The instructor has explained these assignments to your son or daughter already.

What your son or daughter will be required to do in these studies: At the beginning of the semester,
students are asked to fill out a set of questionnaires on the web, e.g., about their personality and attitudes.
Students are not required to do this, but if they do they will receive one credit. If they do not participate in
this “pretesting”, they will be ineligible for some later experiments. They will sign up for subsequent
experiments on a web page run by the psychology department. They will be asked to sign a separate
consent document for each study in which they choose to participate.

Time required: A total of 6 hours of research participation and/or equivalent alternate assignments are
required.

Risks: In some studies, students may be misled about the true purpose of the study or some of its
procedures. This will be explained to them some time after the study in a debriefing. In other studies, they
may be recorded on video or audiotape without their prior knowledge. This is sometimes necessary
because people might act unnaturally if they knew they were being recorded. In these cases, they will be
informed immediately after they complete the study and given the option of having their audiotape or
videotape erased. Other risks will be explained in the informed consent document for each study. A
University of Virginia Institutional Review Board for the protection of human participants has approved
all studies.

Benefits: The major benefit of participating in these studies is to provide students with first-hand
experiences in the research process and a deeper understanding of how psychological research is
conducted. There is no other direct benefit of participation in these research studies.
Confidentiality: In some studies, the information students give will be anonymous. If so, they will not be asked to write their name on any form other than the consent form (which cannot be linked to research data). In other studies, the information that they give will be handled confidentially. In this case, their information will be assigned code numbers. The list connecting their names to this number will be kept in a locked file. Any data collected will be used only for statistical analyses. Names will not be used in any report. Whether the information students give is anonymous or confidential will be stated on the consent document for each study.

Voluntary participation: Your son’s or daughter’s participation in these studies is completely voluntary. There is no penalty if students decide not to participate. If they do not wish to participate in these experiments, students should notify their instructor who will arrange an alternate assignment that involves equivalent time and effort.

Right to withdraw from the studies: Students have the right to withdraw from any study at any time without penalty. Even if they withdraw, they will receive credit for the study.

How to withdraw from studies: The consent form students sign for each experiment will tell them how to withdraw from the study. In most cases, they simply leave the room.

Obligation to appear for appointments: Once students decide to participate in a study they have an obligation to appear for the experiment at the proper time and place. If they sign up for an experiment and fail to keep the appointment, and fail to notify they experimenter 24 hours in advance, they will be penalized for an amount of time equal to the amount of time that the study would have taken. For example, if they miss a study that takes a half-hour, they will be asked to do an additional half-hour of experimentation. Once they arrive at the study, they may withdraw at any point without penalty. This penalty applies only if they do not show up for a scheduled appointment.

Payment: Experimental credit is given in half-hour increments based on the amount of time each study takes. If the student does not complete six hours of research studies and/or papers about journal articles there will be a penalty that has been described to the students by the instructor; for example, the student’s grade may be reduced on step, such as from a B+ to a B.

Whom to contact if you have questions about the studies: Professor Brian Nosek, Dept. of Psychology, University of Virginia, P.O. Box 400400, Charlottesville, VA. 22904. Tel: (434) 924-0666, Em: nosek@virginia.edu.

Whom to contact about your child’s rights in these studies: Luke Kelly, Chairman, Institutional Review Board for the Social and Behavioral Sciences , 400 Ray C. Hunt Drive, Suite 360, Room 4, University of Virginia, P.O. Box 800392, Charlottesville, VA 22908-0392. Phone: (434) 243-2915

Agreement: I agree that my son or daughter may participate in the studies described above. [If you do not agree, simply do not return this form]

Son’s or Daughter’s Name [printed] ___________________________________________

Your Name [printed] _______________________________________________________

Your Relationship to this Student ____________________________________________

Your Signature _______________________________ Date: _________________________

A copy of this document is available at: http://www.virginia.edu/psychology/ppool/under18.doc