PARENTAL CONSENT DOCUMENT

Title of Study: Mass Testing
Investigators: Patrick Armstrong, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your daughter/son/ward, ______________________ is an Iowa State University student (Student’s full name) enrolled in Psychology 101, 230, 280, or Communication Studies 101. She/he is not currently 18 years of age, and therefore by Federal Research Regulations and Iowa law, is considered a minor.

One of the requirements of enrollment in the courses listed above is completion of research credit. This research credit can be obtained in one of two ways. Students may participate in research studies that are conducted by faculty in the Department of Psychology or students may complete a series of quizzes or short papers related to published research articles. If minor students wish to participate in research studies, they must first obtain signed parental consent. Your daughter/son/ward has expressed interest in participating in a study called Mass Tested that is conducted each semester by the Department of Psychology. The specific details of this study are described below including the rights of a research participant, a description of the possible risks, and the compensation that your daughter/son/guardian will receive for participation. Please read over the information presented below and if you agree to provide consent print your name and sign at the appropriate place on page two of this document.

INTRODUCTION-- The purpose of Mass Testing is to collect data for a number of individual difference and personality measures that can be used to select potential research participants for additional studies conducted by investigators in the Department of Psychology, to develop new questionnaires, and to build a database of individual difference measures. Your daughter/son/ward is eligible to participate in Mass Testing as part of the Department of Psychology Research Participation Pool. As noted on the course syllabus, participation in experiments is one of the available options for acquiring experimental credit in your psychology course.

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES— For the Mass Testing exercise your daughter/son/ward will complete a number of questionnaires on-line. These questionnaires will include items that measure different aspects of personality, personal preferences, and prior experiences. Most of the questions ask about relatively innocent information (e.g., how many hours are want TV each day, are you a democrat or republican, do you consider yourself impulsive). However, some of the questions may ask for sensitive personal information. For instance, a questionnaire might ask for information related to how often you consume alcohol or engage in other risky behavior (e.g., engage in unprotected sex, use controlled substances). Your daughter/son/ward is free to skip any questions that s/he is not comfortable answering.
The data will only be available to investigators who have obtained permission from the Iowa State University IRB to ask these questions or who have signed an agreement outlining the appropriate use of the data. The set of questionnaires should take about [50 to 90] minutes to complete.

RISKS—There is a chance that answering some of the questions related to sensitive topics may make your daughter/son/ward feel uncomfortable. Please remember that it is possible to skip any question that one is not comfortable answering. Also, your daughter/son/ward may skip some of the questions do not apply given their particular life situation.

BENEFITS—The knowledge gained in the study will not directly benefit your daughter/son/ward. The data collected will assist researchers in identifying groups of individuals with specific characteristics that can be selected for future studies, in developing new questionnaires, or in examining patterns of behavior over time.

ALTERNATIVES TO PARTICIPATION—Alternatives other than research participation for earning research/extra credit are described in the relevant course syllabus.

COSTS AND COMPENSATION—No monetary costs or compensation are associated with this project. Your daughter/son/ward will earn 1-3 credit(s) for their participation depending on the length of the study.

PARTICIPANT RIGHTS—Participation in Mass Testing is completely voluntary and your daughter/son/ward may refuse to participate or leave the study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits.

CONFIDENTIALITY—Records identifying participants will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by applicable laws and regulations and will not be made publicly available. We are required by the University IRB to maintain an electronic record of your willingness to participate in Mass Testing.

There are three ways that the data collected for Mass Testing can be used:

1) Data including your daughter/son/ward responses to the questions and your personal identifiers (e.g., Name, university ID, email, phone number) will be given to investigators who have approval from the Iowa State IRB to use Mass Testing to screen or pre-test participants for studies this semester. Identifiers will be removed from the data by these investigators at the end of the current semester.

2) Data including your daughter/son/ward responses to the questions, but not his/her personal identifiers, will be given to investigators who are developing new questionnaires. These investigators will not need to contact your daughter/son/ward for additional studies this semester.

3) Data including responses to the questions, but not personal identifiers, will be archived in the Department of Psychology Electronic Testing Database for use by investigators in the future. These data files will not include any information that
would allow the investigator to link one’s identity to the data (i.e., the data will be "de-identified").

Federal government regulatory agencies, auditing departments of Iowa State University, and the Institutional Review Board (a committee that reviews and approves human subject research studies) may inspect and/or copy your records for quality assurance and data analysis. These records may contain private information.

To ensure confidentiality to the extent permitted by law, the following measures will be taken: 1) Only investigators who have approval from the IRB at Iowa State University will have access to the data. 2) The data will be maintained on secure servers or on password protected laboratory computers. 3) Personal identifiers will be removed from the data before it is archived by the Department of Psychology, and identifiers will be removed in a timely manner by individual investigators. 4) Investigators that use the archived data will sign an agreement that outlines the use of the de-identified archived data. If the results are published, your identity will remain confidential.

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS—You may retain a copy of the parental consent form for your records. For further information about Mass Testing, please contact Dr. Patrick Armstrong, Lagomarcino Hall W237, 294-8788, pia@iastate.edu or the Graduate Assistant at psychres@iastate.edu.

If you have any questions about the rights of research subjects or research-related injury, please contact the Office for Responsible Research, 1138 Pearson Hall, (515) 294-4566; irb@iastate.edu.

By signing this form below, I accord my permission for

(student’s full name)

my daughter/son/ward (please circle one) to be a research participant (subject) in the Mass Testing Study.

(Parent or guardian signature) (Printed name of parent or guardian) (Date)