**INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

**[TITLE OF STUDY]**

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE**

Suggested wording: “You are invited to participate in this research study investigating…..” Avoid using coercive statements similar to “Your participation is required in order for me to graduate” or “If you do not return your survey, I will not be able to pass my research course”.

**BASIS FOR SUBJECT SELECTION**

Suggested wording: “You are eligible to participate in this research study because … [give relevant characteristics and method of selection] … and you are 18 years of age or older. You will be one of [give approximate number of subjects to be studied] subjects chosen to participate in this study.” *Researchers* *should be aware that some students in college classes may be minors (under 18 years of age).*

**PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY**

Briefly state what the study is designed to discover or establish, with a few more details than in the Invitation to Participate. In some studies, you may not be able to fully disclose the Purposes or Procedures of the study to participants until after completion of the study. In such cases, *debriefing* is required to minimize the risks involved with less-than-full disclosure.

**PROCEDURES**

Give enough information so that, in combination with what is below, the potential subject can make an informed decision about participating, including how long the procedure will take. As always on Informed Consent documents, the language used should be completely clear and non-technical.

**POTENTIAL RISKS**

Be as complete and as explicit as possible here. All research has some potential risk, however small. Be sure that the information in the Informed Consent documents matches the information in the Research Proposal. In this section, you should also describe the procedures that will be used to minimize the risks involved.

**COVID-19 STATEMENT [*REQUIRED WORDING. DO NOT EDIT.]***

If the research involves in-person interaction the institution’s and local/state safety guidelines will be followed.

**POTENTIAL BENEFITS and COMPENSATION**

Be as complete and as explicit as possible here; all research has some potential *benefit*. If there is *compensation* to the subject, such as academic credit or money, this must also be indicated.

**ALTERNATIVES TO PARTICIPATION**

Subjects whose instructors have offered extra credit as compensation or incentive for participation in a research project must be made aware of a comparable alternative method for receiving such credit – otherwise the extra credit is considered coercive or unduly influential. The subjects should know about this, and this paragraph serves as a reminder. Example wording: “If an instructor has offered academic credit for your participation in this or another research project, the instructor must also offer a comparable alternative method for you to earn such academic credit.” This helps to ensure that subjects’ participation in research is truly voluntary and is not coerced or unduly influenced by considerations of grades or academic performance.

**GUARANTEE OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

Included here should be a brief description of the procedures that will be used to guarantee confidentiality of the data collected. Be explicit, clear, and complete. Part of the purpose of this paragraph is to assure subjects who may have concerns about the privacy of their data, particularly in studies involving potentially sensitive or embarrassing issues.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTICIPATION *[REQUIRED WORDING. DO NOT EDIT.]***

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your present or future relationship with the University of Mount Union. If you decide to participate, you are then free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time, while still receiving any applicable compensation for participation (e.g., extra credit).

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS [*REQUIRED WORDING. DO NOT EDIT.]***

If you have any questions about the procedures in which you will participate, please do not hesitate to ask. If you have questions later, please feel free to contact the investigators listed below. All questions about the procedures or the study in general will be answered.

However, the investigator may choose to wait to answer your questions until after you have completed the procedure, to ensure that your responses will not be affected by your knowledge of the research. If you have additional questions concerning the rights of research subjects, you may contact the University of Mount Union’s IRB at irb@mountunion.edu.

***[The following statement is required, as are the signature blanks and dates. All subjects must***

***be provided with an exact duplicate of the entire Form to keep if they so desire.]***

**You are voluntarily making a decision whether or not to participate. Your signature certifies that you have decided to participate, having read and understood the information presented. Your signature also certifies that you have had an adequate opportunity to discuss this study with the investigator and that you have had all your questions answered to your satisfaction. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.**

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Signature of participant Date

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Printed name of participant

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Investigator Signature Date

**Debriefing**

The aim of a debriefing is to inform the participants of the purposes of the study and to minimize any negative effects of the study. Debriefing can be accomplished via written and/or oral means. As in the Informed Consent documents, the language should be clear and non-technical, and the person debriefing the participant should allow the participant to ask questions. Debriefings are particularly important if **deception** is involved and/or if the study involves sensitive or embarrassing issues. It is the researcher’s responsibility to minimize any negative feelings that a subject may have as a result of participating in the study.