**INFORMED CONSENT TEMPLATE and SAMPLE:**

**The Study Information Page for Minimal-Risk Studies**

***TEMPLATE:***

**Title of the Survey**

Thank the potential participants for participating in your research project. Use the word “research”. Introduce all the researcher(s).

**Purpose:** Describe the hypothesis or goal of your study. If concealment is being used, you may add: “Some information about the study's purpose is being withheld from you to improve data quality. You will be fully debriefed at the end of the survey on the full purpose of the study.”

**Who Can Participate:** Describe the inclusion and exclusion criteria for participation. They all must be adults, 18+ to participate.

**Procedure:** Describe what the participants will be asked to do in enough detail that allow them to make an informed decision to continue or not. If any physical activity is involved, describe any possible limitations that would prevent someone from participating. Describe any potentially triggering topics or sensitive content. Provide the estimated duration of the whole experiment.

**Risks:** Describe the risks to participating, including possible negative reactions or feelings. If there is any possibility of negative reactions, you must include resources in the debriefing at the end of the survey (JCU Counseling, Suicide Hotline, Title IX Office, etc.)

**Potential Benefits:** Describe how participation may benefit the participant and others. (examples: helping the advancement in science, contributing to our body of knowledge, helping the participant learn about themselves or given issues, etc.) SONA points, extra credit, or gift cards are not a benefit.

**Compensation:** Describe compensation, such as SONA points or extra credit. If there is no compensation, write, “Participants will not be compensated.”

**Privacy and Confidentiality:** Describe how data will be collected, protected, shared, stored, and reported. Note: Psych Pool studies are not anonymous if participants appear in person because the participants *are seen and possibly recognized* by the researchers. In this case, the data collection instrument may be anonymous, but the whole study is not. Therefore, you should say you will “keep all data confidential.”

**Voluntary Nature of this Study:** Explain that participation is voluntary and describe how participants may leave the experiment if desired. If the survey has all forced responses, do not say, “You may skip any question.”

**Contacts and Questions:** Provide names and contact information for all researchers. Include this sentence: “If you have questions or concerns about the rights and welfare of research participants, please contact the John Carroll University Institutional Review Board at [irb@jcu.edu](mailto:irb@jcu.ed) or (216) 397-1527.”

End with a statement of electronic consent. For example: “Click the arrow below to begin the survey. By clicking the arrow, you confirm that you have read and understand the information above, you are at least 18 years of age (insert inclusion/exclusion criteria, if applicable), and you willingly consent to participate in this research study. If you’d like to leave the survey at any time, please close your browser.”

***SAMPLE CONSENT PAGE:***

**Attachment Styles and Academic Choices**

Thank you for participating in our research study. This project is being conducted by Sally Smith, Jenny Jones, and Michael Miller, undergraduate psychology students.

**Purpose**: The purpose of this research is to explore issues of attachment styles and resulting academic choices. We are studying how students’ perceptions helped form their decision-making process. Some information about the study's purpose is being withheld from you to improve data quality. You will be fully debriefed at the end of the survey on the full purpose of the study.

**Who Can Participate**: current JCU students who are 18 years and older.

**Procedure:** You will need to complete this anonymous online survey in which you will be asked to answer questions about your childhood and your academic experiences. This survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete.

**Risks:** Some individuals may experience temporary discomfort if they are not pleased with their previous academic choices or with their family relationships. Resources for support are listed on the last page of this survey.

**Potential Benefits:** Research participants will contribute to the knowledge base of young adult development and may feel good about helping research efforts. Students who are pleased with their academic choices may experience some pride upon evaluation of their success.

**Compensation:** Participants who are members of the JCU Psych Pool will be awarded 1.0 SONA point. Other participants will not be compensated.

**Privacy and Confidentiality:** Your name will not be collected in this study, and all data and identifiers will be kept confidential. No information you share electronically can be traced to you or the computer you are using. All data will be stored on a secure, password-protected computer. Even with identifiers removed, your data will not be used or distributed for future research studies. No identifying information about you will appear in any published results.

**Voluntary Nature of this Study:** Your participation is voluntary, and you may refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may also refuse to answer specific questions. If at any time you do not want to participate anymore, you may choose to leave the experiment by closing your browser.

**Contacts and Questions:** If you have any questions about this study or any of these procedures, please contact Sally Smith [ssmith24@jcu.edu](mailto:ssmith24@jcu.edu), Jenny Jones [jjones24@jcu.edu](mailto:jjones24@jcu.edu), or Michael Miller [mmiller24@jcu.edu](mailto:mmiller24@jcu.edu) at this time or later by email. If you have questions or concerns about the rights and welfare of research participants, please contact the John Carroll University Institutional Review Board at [irb@jcu.edu](mailto:irb@jcu.ed) or (216) 397-1527.

Click the arrow below to begin the survey. By clicking the arrow, you confirm that you have read and understand the information above, you are at least 18 years of age, and you willingly give your consent to participate in this research study. If you’d like to leave the survey at any time, please close your browser.