

TEMPLATE FOR ADOLESCENT ASSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS AGED 12 TO 18

Note: Use both the Adolescent Assent Form and the Parent/Guardian Consent Form for participants aged 12 to 18.

IRB # (assigned upon approval)

Approval Date:

Expiration Date:

Title. State the title exactly as it appears on the IRB application in capital letters and bold type.

Salutation. Dear. . . .

Introduction and invitation. Introduce yourself and your role (e.g., student investigator and program of study), and invite the potential subject to participate in the study while being sensitive to the reading comprehension (grade) level for this subject pool. For example,

We're asking you to be in a research study. As you know, research is a way to learn new things. You will be in the study only if you decide that you want to be. We'll tell you about the study, and then you should take time the time you need to decide. You should also talk to your parents or guardian before you decide.

Why are you being asked to be in this research study? Explain simply why the prospective subject is eligible to participate. As appropriate, include major eligibility criteria, e.g., "You are being asked to be in this study because you are a girl between the ages of 12 and 18."

What is the reason for doing this research study? State the scientific purpose of the study in ordinary language, define any technical or medical terms, and provide a brief background to help the potential participant understand why the research is being done. For example,

This study will look at what girls your age think about leadership.

What will be done during this research study? Describe the procedures chronologically using simple language, short sentences (1-3 lines), and short paragraphs (no more than 7 lines). Consider using subheadings to organize this section and increase readability. Describe *when* the research activities will take place, *where* they will occur, *what* will happen, and *how much time* it will take. For example,

First you will be given a survey with 40 statements. Then you will be asked to read each one and give it a score from 1-5, depending on how much you agree or disagree with it.

What will being in this research study cost you? State the financial obligations the participant will incur as a result of participating in the study. If there are no financial obligations, write

There is no cost to you to be in this research study.

Will you be paid to be in this research study? Describe any financial arrangements made to compensate the subject for participating in the study. If there is none, state,

You will not be paid to be in this research study.

What are the possible good things about being in this study? Explain the benefits. If direct participant benefits can reasonably be anticipated as a result of participation, describe these possible benefits, and conclude with the following caveat:

However, there might not be any good things in particular about being in this study.

What are the possible bad things about being in this study? The most serious and common risks should be addressed first, followed by disclosure of uncommon and less serious risks in a separate paragraph, if warranted. Risks common to social science and behavioral research may include loss of confidentiality and emotional or psychological distress. Alternately, if there are no known risks, state the following:

We don't think there are any bad things about being in this research study.

How long will this take? Explain the time commitment. For example,

Most students need 30-45 minutes to finish this survey.

Will people know that I am in the study? Define confidentiality, but avoid using the word "secret." For example,

The other girls in your Girl Scout Troop will know that you are in the study. The researchers will also know that you are in the study, but they won't use your name if they talk or write about it.

Is it O.K. to say, "No, I don't want to be in this study"? Assure the potential subject in the following or similar language:

Of course! Instead of being in this research study, you can decide not to take part. If you decide to be in the study and then change your mind, you can stop any time you feel like it. No one will be angry or upset with you.

Is there anything else I should know about the study? If there is additional information that needs to be disclosed, be sure to state that.

What are your rights as a research participant? Use the following standard clause:

You have rights as a research participant. These rights have been explained in this form and in *The Rights of Research Participants* that you have been given. If you have any questions about your rights, talk to the investigator or call the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Clarkson College, 402-552-3100 or email IRB@clarksoncollege.edu.

Do you understand what you are being asked to do? Add the following:

I understand. All my questions were answered. Here is my decision:

I want to be in the study

I don't want to be in the study

Your signature: _____

Today's date: _____

Signature of person explaining the study: _____

Today's date: _____

Participant's initials. Add a line at the bottom of each page for the participant to initial to show they have read each page.