Dear Parent(s):

Your son or daughter is enrolled in an Introductory Psychology course at the University of Michigan-Flint. As part of the requirements for this course, students can opt to (1) participate in the Psychology Department’s Introductory Psychology Subject Pool or (2) complete an alternative written assignment. Option 1 involves participating in 2 hours of research. Option 2 involves summarizing the goals and findings contained in a research article. Your child has the right to select either option.

Your child has elected to participate in the Introductory Psychology Subject Pool (Option 1). Because your son or daughter is under the age of 18, federal law requires that we get your consent before he or she is allowed to participate in any type of experimental research.

The Introductory Psychology Subject Pool was developed on the premise that students should learn about psychological research and how it is conducted. Participating in an actual study is one of the best ways of doing so. The faculty also benefit because they need participants in order to conduct and publish their research. Our departmental researchers conduct studies on a variety of topics, such as decision-making and person perception.

Of importance to you, all studies have been approved by the Institutional Review Board at the University of Michigan. This means that each study complies with the rules and regulations regarding the use of human participants in research.

Of importance to your child, his or her name is never linked to the data that he or she provides to the researcher. Confidentiality is strictly enforced and upheld by our researchers in the Psychology Department. Moreover, he or she can stop participating in any study for whatever reason without penalty. Lastly, researchers let all students know the purpose of their research, which your child may then share with you.

To participate in the subject pool, students complete an online enrollment form via the psychology department’s research data base system, Sona Systems. Sona Systems creates an account for your child. This account permits him or her to view those experiments that are currently available. He or she is free to select any one of the studies or none at all. In the latter case, he/she may decide against Option 1 and for Option 2 instead.

Students 18 years old or older are required to complete an informed consent form before they can participate in the study that they have selected. The informed consent describes in brief the study and goes over their rights as a participant in detail. However, because your child is under 18, he or she needs your permission first. This requires your signature on the enclosed consent forms. Please keep in mind that you, as the parent or guardian, can decide to have your child complete Option 2 instead. Moreover, by granting permission, your child still has the right to pursue Option 2 if he or she decides, at any point, not to participate in any study.

If you would like additional information about your child’s rights as a participant in research or about the approval process for psychology studies in general, please contact Mary Mandeville. Mary is the Research Compliance Specialist for the University of Michigan – Flint. She can be reached at (810) 762-3384 or mandevil@umflint.edu. The Chair or the Psychology Department, Dr. McGrath, may also be contacted at 810-762-3424

Thank you!
INFORMED ASSENT

Contact Information: Introductory Psychology Subject Pool, University of Michigan-Flint, Department of Psychology, 530 French Hall, Flint, MI 48502. Office Phone: (810) 762-3424.

I, __________________________, hereby willingly agree to participate in the Introductory Psychology Subject Pool for course credit and understand that this requires participation in 2 hours of psychological research. In order to participate in research, I acknowledge the following:

1) There is an alternative written assignment available to satisfy the course requirement (Option 2), but I have freely chosen to participate in the subject pool.
2) I understand that I am expected to abide by all rules and regulations pertaining to participation in the Introductory Psychology Subject Pool.
3) I understand that I have been provided with a copy of these rules and regulations.
4) I understand that any violation of these rules and regulations entitles the Department of Psychology to terminate my participation in the subject pool.
5) I understand that I am free to choose which experiments or psychological studies I would like to complete for course credit, and that I am not required to participate in any single study to satisfy the course requirement.
6) I understand that I am free to refuse to answer specific questions or participate in certain parts of any research study.
7) I also understand that any information collected from me will remain confidential except as may be required by federal, state or local law.

________________________  __________________________
Date  Student’s Signature

Please print your name here

Please complete the following information, which is needed for our records in the Undergraduate Office in Psychology to ensure that you receive credit for your participation.

Student’s name: _______________________________
E-mail (UMflint accounts only): ________________________

Term of Participation (circle one): Fall Winter Spring Summer Year: ______

Student UM ID number: _______________________________

Instructor: _______________________________
INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Contact Information: Introductory Psychology Subject Pool, University of Michigan-Flint, Department of Psychology, 530 French Hall, Flint, MI 48502. Office Phone: (810) 762-3424.

This is to certify that we, the parents of ____________________________, hereby agree to allow our child to participate in the Introductory Psychology Subject Pool at the University of Michigan-Flint. In order for our child to participate in research, we acknowledge the following:

1) We understand that guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services require parental consent for children and adolescents under the age of 18 to participate in psychological research.

2) We understand that all projects affiliated with the Department of Psychology’s Subject Pool have been approved by the Institutional Review Board at the University of Michigan-Flint.

3) As a participant of the subject pool, we understand that our child will be involved in psychological research conducted by faculty, graduate students, and senior honors students in the Department of Psychology.

4) We understand that our child will be expected to abide by the rules and regulations for subject pool participation.

5) We understand that violation of these rules and regulations entitles the Department of Psychology to terminate my child’s participation in the subject pool, requiring him/her to complete the alternative written assignment instead.

6) A detailed description of what these rules and regulations are has been provided to us.

7) We understand that our child will be expected to participate in 2 hours of psychological research as part of the course requirements and that they have freely elected this option over the alternative written assignment.

8) We understand that our child is free to choose which studies they would like to participate in, and are not required to participate in any single study for course credit.

9) We understand that our child is free to refuse to answer any questions or participate in any part of a research study.

10) We understand that all information collected from our child will remain confidential except as may be required by federal, state, or local law.

_________________________  __________________________
Date                  Parent’s/Guardian’s signature

Please print your name here

Please have your son or daughter complete the information below before returning this form to our office. This information is needed for our records in the Undergraduate Office in Psychology to ensure that your child receives credit for their participation.

Student’s name: __________________________
E-mail (UMflint accounts only): __________________________

Term of Participation (circle one): Fall Winter Spring Summer Year: _____

Student UM ID number: __________________________

Instructor: __________________________