

Informed Consent

Student / Children Participants

Western Governors University - Teachers College

Master of Education: Instructional Design

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Educational Planning and Advocacy in Secondary and Post-Secondary Education

Introduction

Shanarra Johnson, a graduate student researcher in the Teachers College of Western Governors University, wishes to conduct a research study for the purpose of gathering data about average participant knowledge and motivation regarding general educational planning information, learner likeliness to utilize the educational information learned in learner future, and lastly to investigate the relationship between student responses before versus after instruction. The content studied and discussed in the unit is not in association with any specific school or organization and presents an unbiased look at general educational options and information. By signing this consent form, you agree to participate in the study. All data collected will be reported as aggregated summaries. Individual names will not be used.

Description of the Project

Learners will review content regarding educational and academic planning, advising, and advocacy. Learners will be trained on educational planning steps, resources, and information using an series of instructional unit lessons. Learners will access lessons via computer using virtual access and will email copies of completed lesson task to themselves and/or parent, if applicable. Learners will complete individual lessons on their own time and will spend anywhere from approximately 6 to 15 hours completing all lesson materials and independent research. Learners will be asked to complete an introductory formative objective assessment in the first lesson and will repeat this assessment after entire unit completion. Additionally, learners may have the option to complete formative feedback surveys for every lesson, as well as an optional questionnaire to provide additional insight on their motivation, preferred lessons, and likeliness to utilize the information learned in the lessons in their future. The purpose of this study is to gather more data about student knowledge, motivation, and likeliness to utilize the educational information learned from the instructional unit as well as to investigate the relationship between student responses before versus after instruction.

Benefits and Risks of the Study

The study poses only minimal risk to learners because the study does not require learners to interact with other participants nor divulge personal information beyond basic preference and opinion. Learners will all participate in the instructional unit independently and will self-direct through the process, preventing any unnecessary judgements, time constraints, or negative interactions with other learners. Data collected from learners will not include their age nor specific identifying or sensitive information. Learners are more likely

to positively benefit from the study by developing personalized information for private personal use while providing the instructor feedback on areas of improvement. Other possible benefits include increased knowledge of educational options and improvements in educational achievements over time, including completion rate increases.

Confidentiality

Participation in the instructional unit will not require learners to share demographic information that is sensitive and data collected does not need to be categorized by any identifying information in specific. The individual unit tasks will not require learners to self-identify when completing educational planning tasks. Instead, learners are encouraged to keep their own record of educational information completed in each lesson for individual use rather than the instructor maintaining personal or educational data for each learner. Learners may have the option to email each unit's educational content to themselves for later use and instructor will not receive copies of learners personal responses beyond survey and questionnaire feedback data. Learners may use their name or a chosen name on instructor survey and questionnaires but no names will be included in the aggregate assessment results.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal

You and/or your child's participation in the study is completely voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at any time. Participation in the study does not take place during k-12 classroom time and should not be completed while engaged in other classroom activities or assignments. Instructor will not keep any learner specific data beyond aggregate amounts and general opinion and suggestions. Grades/enrollment will not be impacted in any way as a result of participation or lack of participation in this study. If the learner or child chooses to withdraw they may inform the instructor and may discontinue participation in the unit lessons and/or assessments.

Questions, Rights and Complaints

Participants and parents have a right to view the aggregate results of the study. If you have questions about this study, please contact me by calling 662-995-0466 or email sjoh255@my.wgu.edu. If you have questions about your rights or unresolved questions or complaints pertaining to the study, contact the WGU IRB Chair by email: irb@wgu.edu.

Consent Statement

By signing this document, the parent/legal guardian grants permission for their child to participate in the study and has the opportunity to have his or her questions answered.

Student participants will be informed of the research purpose and activities and will be asked for their assent to participate upon parental approval. You also acknowledge that you have received a copy of this form.

Parental/Legal Guardian Signature

Typed/Printed Name

Date

Student Signature (Assent)

Typed/Printed Name

Date