

APPENDIX B

INFORMED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH STUDY

THE IMPACT OF TEACHER-CREATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MATERIALS IN AN ONLINE KNOWLEDGE BASE: A CASE STUDY

Principal Investigator: Christopher Brignola

Dear Teacher:

You have been invited to participate in a research study to examine the impact of teacher-created professional development materials in an online knowledge base system. Teachers will collaboratively identify, develop, and respond to their own targeted professional developmental needs using the ADDIE (Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, Evaluation) model for training management. The purpose of the study will be to examine participants' patterns of collaboration, user experiences, and potential outcomes for sharing created development online. This research study will be conducted by Christopher Brignola, a doctoral candidate in the DPS in Computing Studies for Education Professionals at Pace University.

Please read all of the following information carefully. Ask Mr. Brignola to explain any words, terms, or sections that are unclear to you. Ask any questions that you have about this research study. Do not sign this consent form unless you understand the information in it and have had your questions answered in advance. Mr. Brignola has attempted to answer all questions to the best of his ability and will answer any questions the participants may have in the future. There are no known potential risks to participants of this research study.

Any and all questions about this research study can be directed to:
cbrignola@gmail.com
347-439-8911

If you decide to take part in this research study, you will be asked to sign this form. You will be given a copy of the signed form. You should keep your copy for your records. It has information, including important names and telephone numbers, to which you may wish to refer in the future.

Benefits and larger implications from this study focus on the potential power for teachers to rapidly develop their own professional development to actively target gaps in knowledge. This can save districts and schools both time and money when these online communities can follow established training models to target relative and engaging professional development opportunities. Information from this proposed study will also add to the professional literature within the field of online communities and blended learning.

Participation in this research study will require your taking a survey (approximately 10 minutes) used to target general areas for development. You will be provided access to an online system that will allow you to curate content among peers in response to a pre-identified topic from the survey. As part of the study, you will find resources and synthesize information to create a "series." A "series" is a small presentation that you can share with other participants in the study. As a participant in the research study, you will be granted access to the online knowledge base. While using the online system you will be free to ask peers questions or engage in feedback. Participation will last for three weeks and will likely require approximately six–ten hours. Additionally you may be invited to participate in a focus group interview (approximately 45 minutes) at the conclusion of the study. Anything that you create will be shared online for a period of one week using Twitter.

Your identity and connection to the materials will remain confidential and not linked directly to any individual participant. Additionally, any analysis, trends, and conclusions reached from the study data will remain confidential and all records will be kept on an encrypted and password protected drive.

Taking part in this research study is completely voluntary. You can decide to withdraw from this research study at any time for any reason.

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Pace University has approved the solicitation of subjects for this research study. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Sponsored Research at (212) 346-1273.

Federal law requires the Institutional Review Board to review and approve any research study involving humans. This must be done before the study can begin. The study is also reviewed on a regular basis while it is in progress.

Please write your printed name, indicate the date, and sign the consent form in the spaces provided below:

Please print your name:

Date:

Participant's Signature: