



The following consent form template can be used as the opening page of an anonymous online survey.

Templates will not be appropriate for every imaginable study, as different types of studies require different details. Adapt them to fit your research. Feel free to cut and paste from any example in this document.

Language used in this form should be easily understood by participants. The REB recommends a grade 8 reading level in most cases.

The content of this form must be consistent with information presented in the REB application.

For some research (e.g., anonymous online surveys) it is inappropriate to get a signature, because signed consent eliminates what would otherwise be anonymity. Completion of an online survey itself is taken as implied consent. Completion of a paper survey can also be taken as implied consent if the consent information is presented at the beginning of the survey.

CONSENT FORM

[Template #2: Anonymous Online Survey/No Signature Required]

PROJECT TITLE

You are invited to take part in a research study being conducted by, INSERT NAME, [an undergraduate/graduate student/faculty member] in DEPARTMENT at Dalhousie University. The purpose of this research is to INSERT ONE TO THREE BRIEF SENTENCES EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT AND METHODS USED, and WHO CAN PARTICIPATE (e.g., have undergraduate students complete a survey on why they decide to pursue their degree). The study is funded by FUNDER NAME.

If you choose to participate in this research, you will be asked to INSERT A FEW (ONE TO THREE) SENTENCES EXPLAINING WHAT IS INVOLVED IN PARTICIPATION (e.g., answer XX questions in an anonymous online survey on INSERT TOPICS COVERED BY SURVEY. The survey should take approximately XX minutes.

Your participation in this research is entirely your choice. You do not have to answer questions that you do not want to answer (by selecting prefer not to answer), and you are welcome to stop the survey at any time if you no longer want to participate. All you need to do is close your browser. I will not include any incomplete surveys in my analyses. If you do complete your survey and you change your mind later, I will not be able to remove the information you provided as I will not know which response is yours.

Your responses to the survey will be anonymous. This means that there are no questions in the survey that ask for identifying details such as your name or email address. All responses will be saved on a secure Dalhousie server. Only INSERT NAMES will have access to the survey results.

I will describe and share general findings of this research in PRESENTATIONS/MY HONOURS THESIS/SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS. EITHER: I/my supervisor will keep the anonymous survey information indefinitely as it may be used in future research. OR: I will destroy all information [XX] months/years after completing/reporting the results. OR: With your consent I will share your anonymous data in a public research database called [name of repository], where it may be used in other future research studies. You can choose not to have your data included in this repository and still participate in this research.

EITHER: The risks associated with this study are no greater than those you encounter in your everyday life. OR, IF SOME RISKS (e.g. discomfort) ARE ANTICIPATED: The risks associated with this study include INSERT PERCEIVED RISKS, PROBABILITY OF THESE RISKS. THIS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY INFORMATION ON HOW RISKS ARE MITIGATED.

There will be no direct benefit to you in participating in this research. The research, however, might contribute to new knowledge on INSERT SENTENCE ON THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH. If you would like to see how your information is used, please feel free to visit my website [insert WEBSITE LINK] after DATE.

[IF INCENTIVES WILL BE OFFERED: To thank you for your time you can choose to enter a draw for a chance to win a XX gift card at the end of the survey. Your contact information for the draw will not be linked in any way to your survey responses.]

You should discuss any questions you have about this study with RESEARCHER NAME AND SUPERVISOR NAME. Please ask as many questions as you like before or after participating. My contact information is INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION *USE DALHOUSIE EMAIL ADDRESSES AND INCLUDE A PHONE NUMBER.

If you have any ethical concerns about your participation in this research, you may contact Research Ethics, Dalhousie University at (902) 494-3423, or email ethics@dal.ca (and reference REB file # 20XX-XXXX).”

I consent to complete this survey (required to proceed to survey).

I consent to have my data stored in a data repository for future research (optional).

Please follow the link here/click continue [ensure participants can proceed only if they click the consent button above].

See TCPS Article 3.2 for additional suggested consent form items that may need to be addressed for your particular study, such as conflict of interest, commercialization, and not waiving legal rights.