

**Baylor University**  
**Certification of Informed Consent**  
**Principal Investigator: John Smith, Ph. D., Department of Psychology**

This form asks for your consent to participate in psychological research. For this research you will be asked to compare several flavored solutions for perceived sweetness,<sup>1</sup> and the entire procedure should last no more than a few minutes.<sup>2</sup> **If you are diabetic or hyperglycemic, you should not participate in this research.**<sup>3</sup>

There will be no physical risks at any time.<sup>4</sup> You may elect, either now or at any time during the study, to withdraw your participation, with no penalty or loss of benefits.<sup>5</sup> You should understand that your participation is completely voluntary.

We have no interest in knowing how a specific individual performs on the tasks. There will be no identifying codes used, so you are guaranteed of complete anonymity.<sup>6</sup>

This study meets the American Psychological Association's standards for "Minimal Risk," and poses no major risks or dangers for you as a participant.

The results will be tabulated in the coming months, and will be available for you to review, should you wish to see the outcome. Since no identifying information is kept, though, we have no way to tell you how you individually did on any of the tests. These data will allow us to understand how memories for sensory stimuli are stored and processed.<sup>7</sup>

Please direct all inquiries to Dr. John Smith, Department of Psychology, Baylor University, Box 97334, Waco, TX, 76798. Dr. Smith can also be reached at (254) 710-2961.<sup>8</sup>

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a participant, or any other aspect of the research as it relates to you as a participant, please contact the Baylor University Committee for Protection of Human Subjects in Research, <Current IRB Chair>, Baylor University, P. O. Box 97334, Waco, TX 76798. <Current IRB Chair may also be reached at <Phone Number for Current IRB Chair>.<sup>9</sup>

I have read and understood this form, am aware of my rights as a participant, and have agreed to participate in this research.<sup>10</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*NOTE: Annotations on this form do not appear on actual Consent Form*

<sup>1</sup> This provides a brief description of the procedures. More complicated procedures, especially those involving the use of children, may need to be explained much more fully. While the investigator must be careful to avoid "leading" the subject, introducing experimenter bias, the subject must be able to make an informed decision concerning participation.

<sup>2</sup> This informs the subjects about the time commitment expected of them. This should be a maximum estimate.

<sup>3</sup> This informs any at-risk subjects not to participate.

<sup>4</sup> This informs the subject of any risk. In this experiment, the only risks involve sugar consumption, and thus are addressed in #3 above. In many studies, there will be some risk and this should be clear to the subjects.

<sup>5</sup> Informs subjects that we will not force them to continue participating, nor will we penalize them for withdrawing from the study in progress. In a classroom setting, subjects who elect not to participate need to be informed of the alternative activity. If you are recruiting subjects based on some criteria (i.e., they are "senior level physics majors") inform them of that.

<sup>6</sup> Indicates how the data will be kept confidential. This is critical. If potentially-identifying information is kept, such as code numbers or names (for example, to be used in a pre/post-test design) the subject needs to be informed how identification will be prevented (i. e., codes locked in a filing cabinet, access only to researcher and immediately supervised students, etc.). If sensitive data are collected, the disposal of these data should also be addressed. As a general rule, **unless you have a compelling need to collect information about ID#, SAT scores, etc., don't ask for it.** Committee evaluation always involves an assessment of risk vs. benefit. If risk of identification is minimal because you don't ask for identifying information, this evaluation is considerably easier.

<sup>7</sup> Provides further justification for the research, to make certain subjects are given informed consent. While not required, it is considerate of the investigators to allow subjects the opportunity to review the results.

<sup>8</sup> The first line of inquiry should be directed to the investigator. If the PI is a student, this should be noted and the faculty sponsor should be listed. As a general rule, home phone numbers should not be given out.

<sup>9</sup> This provides assurance that the research in question has been reviewed by the Baylor IRB, and lists the name and address of the current chair.

<sup>10</sup> This is a final statement affirming that the subject has read and understood the form.