

*Research- Assistive Technology and Writing*

MINOR ASSENT FORM

WHAT WE'RE DOING.

This research study is about using technology to write. We want to find out if it helps you with writing assignments.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

Nothing bad could happen to you if you decide to participate in our study.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Unfortunately, there is nothing in it for you, other than to be able to learn about this new software and to help us figure out if technology can help students like you.

YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT SAFE.

Any information we get from you will be kept safe. That means that no one else will know what *you personally* typed. They will only know that a student typed it.

PARTICIPATION: YOU HAVE THE CHOICE.

Whether or not you choose to participate in this study is up to you. You can say, "No," at any time, even if you have already started working with us. We promise not to hold it against you in any way. You will still do the writing activities for your teacher, but we will not use your work in the study.

WHAT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?

Ms. Kenney under the direction of Dr. Margo Mastropieri at George Mason University is doing this study. Your parents can reach Dr. Margo Mastropieri at (703) 993-4136 if you or they have questions or want to talk about any problems. You or your parents may call Dr. Monte E. Dawson, Executive Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Services of Alexandria City Public Schools at 703-824-6638, if you have questions about this study. Also, George Mason University has a special office that deals with people like you, who participate in research studies. Your parents can call that office at 703-993-4121 if you have questions that we can't answer. George Mason University has looked at the way we are doing this study and have given us permission to do it.

ASSENT

I have read this form and had my questions answered. I agree to participate in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

Version date: 12/08/08

Revised 07/2005

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INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR  
PARENTS OR LEGALLY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

**RESEARCH PROCEDURES**

This research is being conducted to explore the use of ReadWrite Gold, an assistive technology software program recently purchased by Alexandria City Public Schools. The targeted population for this software is students who have an IEP. If you agree that your child may participate, he or she will be trained to use the software ReadWrite Gold and will be able to use it during some writing assignments. This will assist the researchers to better understand how the availability and use of assistive technology may, or may not, help students with special needs, complete writing assignments.

**RISKS**

There are no foreseeable risks to your child for participating in this research.

**BENEFITS**

There are no benefits to your child as a participant other than to learn to use the software, have access to it, and further research in the use of assistive technology with students with disabilities.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

The data in this study will be confidential. While it is understood that no computer transmission can be perfectly secure, reasonable efforts will be made to protect the confidentiality of your child's assignments. All electronically, digitally, or personally recorded data will be labeled with coded participant numbers. Your child's name will not be included on the other collected data. A code will be placed on all other collected data. Through the use of an identification key, the researcher will be able to link your child's information to his or her identity. Only the researcher will have access to the identification key.

**PARTICIPATION**

Your child's participation is voluntary, and he or she may withdraw (or you may withdraw him or her) from the study at any time and for any reason. Although your child will still participate in the class writing activities, your child's data will not be included in the study. If you do not agree for your child to participate or if you withdraw him or her from the study, there is no penalty or loss of benefits to which you or your child are otherwise entitled. There are no costs to you or any other party.

**CONTACT**

This research is being conducted by Susan Kenney under the direction of Dr. Margo Mastropieri at George Mason University. Dr. Margo Mastropieri may be reached at 703-993-4136 for questions or to report a research-related problem. You may also contact Dr. Monte E. Dawson, Executive Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Services of Alexandria City Public Schools at 703-824-6638, regarding questions about this research. You may contact the George Mason University Office of Research Subject Protections at 703-993-4121 if you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in the research.

This research has been reviewed according to George Mason University and Alexandria City Public Schools procedures governing your participation in this research.

**CONSENT**

I have read this form and agree to participate in this study.

Parent or Legally Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

Version date: 12/08/08

*Research- Assistive Technology and Writing*

**INFORMED CONSENT FORM (Adult Interview)**

**RESEARCH PROCEDURES**

This research is being conducted to explore adult attitudes towards the use of computers and assistive technology for writing. The targeted population for assistive technology is students who have an IEP with accommodations in the area of written language. Participants may be audio taped. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to provide input and feedback, either in person or electronically, about the potential use of assistive technology. This will assist the researchers better understand adult attitudes regarding the use of assistive technology to meet the specific needs and learning characteristics of students with an IEP.

**RISKS**

There are no foreseeable risks for participating in this research.

**BENEFITS**

There are no benefits to you as a participant other than to further research in the effects of the use of assistive technology for students with disabilities.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

The data in this study will be confidential. While it is understood that no computer transmission can be perfectly secure, reasonable efforts will be made to protect the confidentiality of your transmission. If you participate in our online survey, neither your name nor any other identifier, including your internet protocol (IP) address, will be placed on the survey or other research data. All electronically, digitally or personally recorded data will be labeled with coded participant numbers. Your name will not be included on surveys or other collected data. A code will be placed on all surveys and other collected data. Through the use of an identification key, the researcher will be able to link your survey to your identity, if known. Only the researcher will have access to the identification key.

**PARTICIPATION**

**CONTACT**

This research is being conducted by Susan Kenney under the direction of Dr. Margo Mastropieri at George Mason University. Dr. Margo Mastropieri may be reached at 703-993-4136 for questions or to report a research-related problem. You may also contact Dr. Monte E. Dawson, Executive Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Services of Alexandria City Public Schools at 703-824-6638, regarding questions about this research. You may contact the George Mason University Office of Research Subject Protections at 703-993-4121 if you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in the research.

This research has been reviewed according to George Mason University procedures governing your participation in this research.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do agree to be audio taped.                      \_\_\_\_\_ I do not agree to be audio taped.

**CONSENT**

I have read this form and agree to participate in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Signature  
Print name

Version date: 12/08/08