

University of Southern California
Rossier School of Education
3470 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089

INFORMATION/FACTS SHEET FOR EXEMPT NON-MEDICAL RESEARCH

Examining Presence As An Influence On Learning Engagement

You are invited to participate in a research study. Research studies include only people who voluntarily choose to take part. This document explains information about this study. You should ask questions about anything that is unclear to you.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study is designed to understand how changes in the design of a classroom environment can influence how students learn.

PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a short survey two times, once after this class session, and once after another class session. The survey will consist of prompts about your experiences during the class session, and ask you to rate your agreement with the prompts on a scale. There will be no audio or video recording, nor any photography.

Each survey is expected to take no more than fifteen minutes, and there will be only two surveys – one each week on two different occasions.

All surveys will be anonymous, and there will be no penalty if you decide not to participate. You may stop at any time, or decline to answer any question.

PAYMENT/COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATION

You will not be paid for participating in this research study.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The surveys will not ask for your name or any personally-identifying information, but they will include an identification number for the purposes of this study only, which will be used to match your surveys from this week and next week. Even though these surveys are anonymous, we will still keep the records for this study confidential as far as permitted by law. However, if we are required to do so by law, we will disclose information. The members of the research team, your instructor, and the University of Southern California's Human Subjects Protection Program (HSPP) may access the data. The HSPP reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research subjects.

The data will be stored on the investigators' personal computers, secured file servers and in their offices. Your responses will be coded, and will not be personally identifiable, except for any demographic information you choose to provide. Paper versions of the questionnaire will be input into the investigators' computer systems for study. Original paper versions of the questionnaire will be held in the faculty advisor's office for a period of six months and then destroyed. Computerized versions of the data will be kept indefinitely, and may be used for further study.

INVESTIGATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Scott A. Smith, principal investigator, at (213) 740-2707 or sas@usc.edu, or Dr. Patricia Tobey, faculty sponsor, at (213) 740-0776 or tobey@usc.edu.

IRB CONTACT INFORMATION

University Park Institutional Review Board (UPIRB), 3720 South Flower Street #301, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0702, (213) 821-5272 or upirb@usc.edu