

Student Assent Script

ScienceBEAT: A joint research project with the University of Maryland
and Prince George's County Public Schools

My name is Ronald Yaros, leader of a research team at the University of Maryland. This team, the Prince George's County Public Schools, and your teacher have allowed me to work with you over the next several days on a research study focused on strategies that should help you become better scientists and writers of information related to climate change. It is important for you to understand that participation is completely voluntary.

Throughout the study you will complete brief pre and post-tests related to each module. You will be encouraged to ask me and/or your teacher any questions about the research, and you may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

The purpose of this study is to investigate and describe the effects of using reading and writing with multimedia on problem-solving strategies focused on climate change issues. Our research questions guiding the study are: (1) Do the reading and writing problem-solving strategies, supported by technology, improve your understanding, learning, and communication of climate change issues? (2) Does the use of collaborative learning between science and English/journalism classes improve your understanding, learning, and communication of climate change issues? The work that we will be doing is a part of your school district's science and writing curricula.

Whether or not you decide to participate, *any scores on any tests will not be used to assess you work for the class.*

Again, all of you will be encouraged to ask your teacher and me questions throughout the duration of the study, and you may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. All of you and all data collected will be assigned code numbers to protect your identities, and all study-related materials will be stored in password protected computers and locked filing cabinets in my university office. Finally, after the study is completed, all data will be stored in a locked cabinet for ten (10) years and then destroyed.

If you are interested in participating, please sign and date this form below. You will receive a copy of your signed form for your records and your parents' records. If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact me at the address or phone number below.

Thank you. Are there any questions today?

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

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