

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
Informed Consent for Participants
in Research Projects Involving Human Subjects

Title of Project: Teachers of Small Urban School Systems Interviews and Observations

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I. Purpose of this Research Project

The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of elementary school teachers in Roanoke City Public Schools with teaching in an urban school district. The data collected will be used for the investigator's dissertation and some or all of the data may be used in additional publications. Only teachers who have been teaching in Roanoke City Public Schools for five or more years are eligible to participate in this study.

II. Procedures

Should you agree to participate in the above study, you will be agreeing to the interviews and the observations detailed below.

Interview: Your participation involves sharing with the interviewer your experiences as a teacher in Roanoke City Public Schools. There will be three one-hour interviews which will take place at a mutually agreed upon place where you feel comfortable to share your experiences. The interviews will be audio recorded.

Observation: The investigator will observe between 5 and 10 classes over the course of three months. You will work with the investigator to select the date and times of these observations which will take place in your classroom. During these observations, the investigator will take notes.

III. Risks

No risks to participation are anticipated.

IV. Benefits

The study is one of great opportunities to reminisce and unpack various life experiences that can help you gain more insight into your identity representations. The study will give you the opportunity to reflect on their successes in your classroom, the way in which you use pedagogy, and the challenges you have faced and how you are overcoming them.

No promise or guarantee of benefits has been made to encourage you to participate.

V. Extent of Anonymity and Confidentiality

Your identity, and that of any individual who you mention, will be kept confidential at all times and will be known only to the investigator mentioned at the top of this document.

Interview: The above-mentioned interview will be audio recorded and later transcribed by the investigator. When the audio recording is transcribed, pseudonyms (i.e., false names) will be used for your name and for the names of any other individuals who you mention. Pseudonyms will also be used in the preparation of a written report of the study. Any details in the audio recording, or in the classroom observations, that could potentially identify you or anyone who you mention will also be altered. After transcribing is complete, the audio recording will be stored securely by the investigator. This audio recording, all paper and electronic copies of the interview transcript(s), and this consent form will be erased or shredded 6 months after the investigator completes the report for the study. Audio recordings, transcripts, and other notes, electronic and hand-written, will be erased or shredded 6 months after the investigator completes the report for the study.

Observation: During the above-mentioned observations, the investigator will take notes. In these notes, the investigator will use pseudonyms for your name and for the names of any other individuals who you mention, including student names. Notes, electronic and hand-written, will be erased or shredded 6 months after the investigator completes the report for the study.

At no time will the researchers release identifiable results of the study to anyone other than individuals working on the project without your written consent.

The Virginia Tech (VT) Institutional Review Board (IRB) may view the study's data for auditing purposes. The IRB is responsible for the oversight of the protection of human subjects involved in research.

VI. Compensation

You will not receive any form of compensation for participating in this study.

VII. Freedom to Withdraw

It is important for you to know that you are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty. You are free not to answer any questions that you choose or respond to what is being asked of you without penalty.

Please note that there may be circumstances under which the investigator may determine that a subject should not continue as a subject.

Should you withdraw or otherwise discontinue participation, you will be compensated for the portion of the project completed in accordance with the Compensation section of this document.

VIII. Questions or Concerns

Should you have any questions about this study, you may contact one of the research investigators whose contact information is included at the beginning of this document.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the study's conduct or your rights as a research subject, or need to report a research-related injury or event, you may contact the VT IRB Chair, Dr. David M. Moore at moored@vt.edu or (540) 231-4991.

IX. Subject's Consent

I have read the Consent Form and conditions of this project. I have had all my questions answered. I hereby acknowledge the above and give my voluntary consent:

_____ Date _____
Subject signature

Subject printed name

_____ Date _____
Researcher signature

Researcher printed name

(Note: each subject must be provided a copy of this form. In addition, the IRB office may stamp its approval on the consent document(s) you submit and return the stamped version to you for use in consenting subjects; therefore, ensure each consent document you submit is ready to be read and signed by subjects.)