

Requirements for a script

By definition, “exempt” research is exempt from the requirement for a signed consent form. Nevertheless, the ethical principles listed in the [Belmont Report](#), particularly the discussion of the first principle, respect for persons, emphasizes the importance of ensuring that subjects are fully informed about the nature of the research project so that they can make an informed decision to participate or not. An “informational script,” provides that kind of information.

This material was written so that it could be attached to a questionnaire that is distributed to a classroom of students. Phone scripts, introductory letters, or face-to-face scripts should be modified as needed.

Please note, that for exempt studies in which questionnaires, interviews, or surveys are administered, all subjects must be 18 years of age or older. That point should be made clearly in any introductory script. The only exception is for research that uses educational tests; an exempt study that is limited to the administration of educational tests can include subjects under the age of 18.

The purpose of this research study is to determine whether recent terrorist activities in the United States have affected college students' attitudes towards foreigners. For that reason, we will be surveying college students from a number of different classrooms at the University of Pittsburgh and ask them to complete a brief (approximately 10 minute) questionnaire. If you are willing to participate, our questionnaire will ask about background (e.g., age, race, years of education, family background), as well as about your feelings about yourself and about other individuals. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this project, nor are there any direct benefits to you. Each participant will receive a \$2 phone card as a token of our appreciation. This is an entirely anonymous questionnaire, and so your responses will not be identifiable in any way. All responses are confidential, and results will be kept under lock and key. Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw from this project at any time. This study is being conducted by Payton Bell, who can be reached at 412.555.1212, if you have any questions.

The word “research” should be included in script

Description of study, including approximate duration, nature of tasks, and source of subjects.

Any risks and/or benefits should be listed. Typically, in these types of studies there are neither risks nor benefits, although if identifiers are collected, there is a potential risk of breach of confidentiality.

If payments (including class credits) are made, that should be mentioned, otherwise subjects should be told that they will not receive any payment for participation.

Script should state how confidentiality will be maintained.

Statement is needed indicating that participation is voluntary and the subject can withdraw at any time.

Name and phone number or e-mail address of contact person is needed

