Research Assent Form

You are being asked to be a volunteer in a research study.

Purpose:

We are studying online communities. We hope to learn about how they work and what people like about them.

Most of the researchers in this study are students at Georgia Tech. They are taking a class about online communities and are learning how to do research.

What will be done:

If you decide to be in this study, you will:

- Agree to be interviewed in person, on the telephone, or online. The interview should last about an hour or less.
- The interview will be about your experience as a member of an online community.
- The interview will be recorded.

Risks/Discomforts

There aren’t any special risks in being part of this study. The risks are the same as normal activities like talking on the phone or using e-mail.

Many of the researchers are students, and they are just learning how to interview people. If they do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable or that you think is not right, please ask your parent/guardian to contact Dr. Amy Bruckman at telephone (404) 894-9222, or asb@cc.gatech.edu.

Benefits

There are no benefits for being part of this study. However, you will help us understand more about online communities.
Compensation to You

You will receive no money for being in this study.

Confidentiality

To protect your privacy, your real name will not appear in any publications; a fake name will be used instead. However, in the case of quotes from things you have done online, someone could discover your real name if that is what you use online. Since many online sites are open to the world, people can use search engines like Google to find them. In that way, they could take a quote and use a search engine to find the actual page and discover your real name. We do not think that this research will involve very personal information, but in case it does, we will omit direct quotes that could be found in a search engine.

Using Your Real Name

In some cases, people we interview are proud of things they have done online (for example creative projects) and would like to have their real name listed in our published reports. If you would like to request that we use your real name if possible, please sign below. Your parents must also agree to this. We will not be able to use your real name if we feel there is anything that might embarrass you in our report. For most people, using a fake name is the right choice, so you do not need to sign here but you may if you wish.

Please use my real name if possible (optional):

Subject Signature ______________________________________ Date

What name would you like us to use? ______________________

—

Costs to You

There are no costs to you, except for your time.

In Case of Injury/Harm

If you get hurt as a result of being in this study, tell your parent/guardian to contact Dr. Amy Bruckman at telephone (404) 894-9222.

Subject Rights
• We will not tell anyone that you are in this study.
• You don’t have to be in this study if you don’t want to be.
• You can change your mind at any time and leave the study without any problem.

Questions

If you have any questions about this study, you can ask your parents, or talk to the study investigator, Dr. Amy Bruckman at telephone (404) 894-9222 or asb@cc.gatech.edu.

If you sign below, it means that you have read (or have had read to you) the information given in this consent form, and you would like to be a volunteer in this study.

________________________________________
Subject Name

________________________________________
Subject Signature Date

________________________________________
Signature of Person Obtaining Consent Date

Please either fax the signed form to Amy Bruckman at fax (404)-894-3146 or mail it to the following address:

Dr. Amy Bruckman  
Technology Square Research Building  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
85 5th St.  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0760