

MINOR ASSENT FORM

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in my research project titled, "Middle School Students' Lived-Experiences Investigating Geometric Space." Through this project, I am learning about middle school students' experience investigating geometric space. Videos and photos of classroom learning, blog postings, classroom artifacts, reflection interviews, and lived-experience descriptions will be analyzed for themes. The reason for this study is to inform the educational research community about the various ways space, as a geometric concept, can be explored in depth with middle school students. Information is needed about possible ways to design innovative geometric investigations as well as accompanying instructional strategies.

You and your classmates will learn about geometric and spatial reasoning, with special emphasis on problematizing the natural way of perceiving the world. Special math classes with me, Keri Valentine, will be both face-to-face and online through Skype from Poughkeepsie Day School as part of your normal math instruction. As Skype take place online, you will be video recorded and photographed during these learning sessions. In addition you will create blog postings as part of the geometric investigations. If you choose to participate in the research, I will use information from the math instruction for research purposes and will ask you to participate in additional activities, which are being conducted solely for research purposes. My advisor, Theodore J. Kopcha, and I will use the information you assent to. In addition, you will participate in the activities that you initial below.

The research is not expected to cause any risks or discomfort. You can quit at any time. Your decision to participate or not participate in the research will not affect your grade or class standing.

Internet communications are insecure and there is a limit to the confidentiality that can be guaranteed due to the technology itself. However once I receive the materials, standard confidentiality procedures will be employed. All emails and Internet communications regarding participation in the research will be deleted as soon as the file is saved to an externally secured drive, only accessible by Theodore J. Kopcha and myself. No individually identifiable information about you, or provided by you during the individual interview portions of the research, will be shared with others without your written permission, unless required by law.

If we use any of your work in any publications or presentations, we will replace your name with a pseudonym to protect your identity. If you allow us to use any video recordings or photographs of yourself in presentations or publications, images of your face may be identifiable but we will not disclose your name. We will delete identifiers from the research record within 9 months after data collection has been completed. We will delete or destroy the photographs and videos of you no later than five years from the start of the study or before your 18th birthday, whichever is sooner.

We will compare the information/activities you have initialed and those your parent/guardian has initialed on their consent form. We will only use the information and allow you to participate in the research activities for the options, which you both initial. By my initials, I assent to participate in the following research activities:

1. A lived-experience description, which will be conducted by e-mail and will include prompts/questions to get me thinking about investigations with geometric space. Lived-experience descriptions: YES / NO. Initial _____.
2. An initial interview conducted by phone or face-to-face (at Poughkeepsie Day School), not to exceed thirty minutes, about my experience investigating geometric space. Initial interview: YES / NO. Initial _____.
3. A follow up interview, to discuss in more detail, experiences discussed in the initial interview (if needed). This will occur by phone or face-to-face (at Poughkeepsie Day School), not to exceed thirty minutes. Follow-up interview: YES / NO. Initial _____.

By my initials, I assent for the researchers to use the following information for research purposes:

1. Blog postings from class containing my posted reflections concerning geometric investigations.
Blog Postings: YES / NO. Initial _____.
2. Photographs of me taking part in the geometric investigations. Photographs: YES / NO. Initial _____.
3. Video of me taking part in the geometric investigations. Videotapes: YES / NO. Initial _____.

By my initials, I assent for the researchers to use the following in professional presentations and publications:

1. Blog postings from class containing my posted reflections concerning geometric investigations.
Blog Postings: YES / NO. Initial _____.
2. Photographs of me taking part in the geometric investigations. Photographs: YES / NO. Initial _____.
3. Video of me taking part in the geometric investigations. Videotapes: YES / NO. Initial _____.

If you want to stop participating in this project, you are free to do so at any time. You can also choose not to answer questions that you don't want to answer.

If you have any questions or concerns you can always ask me or call my teacher, Dr. Theodore J. Kopcha at the following number: 706-542-1889.

Sincerely,

Keri L. Duncan Valentine
Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology Department
University of Georgia
706-224-7870
frogstuff@gmail.com

I understand the project described above. My questions have been answered and I agree to participate in this project. I have received a copy of this form.

Signature of the Participant/Date

Please sign both copies, keep one and return one to the researcher.

Additional questions or problems regarding your rights as a research participant should be addressed to The Chairperson, Institutional Review Board, University of Georgia, 612 Boyd Graduate Studies Research Center, Athens, Georgia 30602-7411; Telephone (706) 542-3199; E-Mail Address IRB@uga.edu