

IRB Study #

Version #1

Form date: November 22nd, 2025

INDIANA UNIVERSITY INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT FOR RESEARCH

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Scientists do research to answer important questions that might help change or improve the way we do things in the future. This consent form will give you information about the study to help you decide whether you want to participate. Please read this form, and ask any questions you have, before agreeing to be in the study.

The purpose of this study is to understand how factors such as mental health and personality influence individuals' reactions to life experiences. Participation will involve completing several online questionnaires that your current state of mind and real-world experiences. In addition, you will be asked to complete brief guided exercise designed to encourage reflection on these real-world experiences. This exercise will involve listening to audio prompts and imagining various scenarios based on the provided instructions. While we are not able to provide you with the full purpose of the study at this time, but will provide additional information after you finish your study participation. We are asking you if you want to be in this study because you are 18 years of age or older, speak English, live in the United States, are a user on the Prolific platform, and self-identify as Black/African American. The study is being conducted by Dr. William Hetrick and J Wolny in the Department of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences at Indiana University.

This is Study 2b, the second part of a two-part study. All participants who completed Study 2a were invited to participate in Study 2b.

If you agree to be in the study, you will do the following things:

- Complete a brief guided exercise designed to encourage reflection on real-world experiences and then answer follow-up questionnaires about your reactions.

This study should take approximately **25 minutes** to complete.

Before agreeing to participate, please consider the risks and potential benefits of taking part in this study: The foreseeable risks of participation in this study are similar those encountered in everyday activities. Possible risks of participation include experiences of mental fatigue or boredom and discomfort at loss of time required to participate in this study. You may also be uncomfortable while answering the survey questions. You can skip any questions you are not comfortable answering; however, you must complete the entire Study 2b session (each study section) to be eligible for compensation. This ensures that your participation contributes meaningfully to the study while respecting your comfort and autonomy.

There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. However, your responses will contribute to our understanding of emotional reactions to life challenges.

You will be paid for participating in this study. Participant payment will be \$5.83 granted via your account. If you do not wish to participate, you can also choose another study. If you do not complete the survey, you will not receive any compensation.

We will protect your information and make every effort to keep your personal information private, but we cannot promise complete confidentiality. No information which could identify you will be shared in publications about this study. We will collect your information through Qualtrics. This data will be stored on password-protected computers or secure

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servers. You will be assigned an arbitrary code number that will be used for the purposes of filing and data analysis. Only this code number will be linked to your responses, not your identifiable information.

Information collected for this study may be used for other research studies or shared with other researchers who are conducting their own research studies. This may include sharing with researchers outside Indiana University and sharing with private companies. It may also include making the information available in public and private databases of research data so that other researchers can use the information to answer research questions.

If we share your information in this way, we will remove information that could identify you, such as your name and contact information, before any information is shared. Since identifying information will be removed, we will not ask for your additional consent for this sharing. **If you have questions about the study or encounter a problem with the research**, please contact either the research coordinator J Wolny at wolny@iu.edu or Dr. William Hetrick at whetrick@indiana.edu.

This research is covered by a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health. This means that the researchers cannot release or use any information, documents, or specimens that could identify you in any legal action or lawsuit unless you say it is okay.

However, there are some types of sharing the Certificate does not apply to. The Certificate does not stop reporting required by federal, state, or local laws, such as reporting of child or elder abuse, some communicable diseases, and threats to harm yourself or others. The Certificate does not stop a government agency who is funding research from checking records or evaluating programs. The Certificate also does not prevent your information from being used for other research when allowed by federal regulations. Researchers also may release information about you to others not connected with the research when you say it is okay

A description of this clinical trial will be available on [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov). This website will not include information that can identify you. At most, the website will include a summary of the results. You can search this website at any time.

For questions about your rights as a research participant, to discuss problems, complaints, or concerns about a research study, or to obtain information or to offer input, please contact the IU Human Research Protection Program office at 800-696-2949 or at irb@iu.edu.

If you decide to participate in this study, you can change your mind and decide to leave the study at any time in the future. If you decide to withdraw, this will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. In addition, withdrawing from the study will not adversely impact your Prolific internal score. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your current or future relations with the investigators.

PARTICIPANT'S CONSENT

In consideration of all of the above, I agree to participate in this research study.

I agree to participate in the research study described above and will print out a copy of this consent form for my own records after I check the box.

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Thank you for agreeing to participate in our research. Before you begin, please note that the data you provide may be collected and used by Prolific as per its privacy agreement. Additionally, this research is for residents of the United States over the age of 18*; if you are not a resident of the United States and/or under the age of 18, please do not complete this survey.

Print this page before you click the box above to begin the experiment.