**SAMPLE ASSENT FORMS**

**Parent/guardian consent and minor assent is required for all persons under 18.**

**Use the following example assent forms when conducting research with minors. Typically, persons aged 14 and older are capable of reading and understanding an assent form that uses the same language as a consent form. The first assent form below should be read as a script to participants.**

**Sample Script for Obtaining Verbal Assent from Minor Participants**

Hi, my name is *(your name)*. I am a *(graduate student/faculty member)* at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, in the *(your school/program)* and I am asking you to participate in a research study to learn more about *(include a brief study purpose)*. Your parent(s)/caregiver(s) know that I am asking you to work with me, but you can say no even if your parent(s)/caregiver(s) say yes. I would like you to *(explain what the participant will do)*. It will take *(explain how long the activity will take)*. I will also ask your parent/caregiver to answer some questions about you. It is OK if you do not want to work with me. If you say yes now, you can change your mind and stop working with me at any time. What you tell me is between us, your parent(s)/caregiver(s), and the people working on this project with me. Part of my job is to keep kids safe, so if you tell me that someone is hurting you, then I will need to tell other grownups to make sure that you are safe. Do you have any questions?

**Sample Form for Obtaining Written Assent from Minor Participants**

I am *(your name)* from *(your program/department)* at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. I am doing a study to figure out *(the purpose of your study).*

For this research, we will *(explain what the participant will do).* We will keep all your answers private, but if you tell me someone is hurting you, I will have to tell the authorities to keep you safe.

We don’t think that any big problems will happen to you as part of this study, but you might *(explain any potential risks).*

If you help us with this project*,* it might help us to *(explain the benefits of the research).*

You should know that you do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. You won’t get into any trouble if you say no. You may stop being in the study at any time. If you don’t want to answer a question, you don’t have to.Your parent(s)/guardian(s) were asked if it is OK for you to be in this study. Even if they say it’s OK, it is still your choice whether or not to take part. You can ask any questions you have, now or later. If you think of a question later, you or your parents can contact me at *(provide contact information for researcher(s), and advisor if graduate student)*.

**Sign this form only if you understand** what you will be doing for this study, have had all your questions answered, have talked to your parent(s)/legal guardian about this project, and agree to take part in this research.

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Participant Signature