

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Research Participant Information and Consent Form

Title of the Study: High School Freshmen's Social Media Use: Changes Across the Freshman Year

Principal Investigator: Dr. B. Bradford Brown (608-262-0838; bbbrown@wisc.edu)

Student Researcher: Ashley Prudhom (aprudhom@wisc.edu)

**Description of the research**

Social media (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook) have quickly become a standard feature of social life for most teens. They help high school students stay connected with friends and meet new people, but they pose some risks as well (cyber-bullying, Internet addiction). How can teens learn to use social media in a positive way? How can parents and schools guide teens? We need your child's help in answering these important questions. We have designed a study to look at how teens use social media across the transition to high school, and we would like your child to be part of the study.

**What will my child's participation involve?**

Students in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade can participate. They will be interviewed by a member of our research team. We'd like to speak with them once in the Fall, and once again in the Spring, for about 45 minutes each time. There's also a 5-minute survey to fill out in the Fall. These interviews will occur in a private place at school (but not during instructional time), or down at the University (if that's more convenient for you). The interviews will be audio-recorded.

**What will my child get for participating?**

As a thank you for participating, students will receive \$15 for completing the Fall interview and \$25 for completing the Spring interview. And they'll qualify for a drawing for a \$100 cash prize.

**Are there risks or benefits and is my child's confidentiality protected?**

There are no direct benefits for participating and the risks are minimal. Your child might be concerned what would happen if what she or he said became public. But we have taken steps to avoid that. Audio- files will be stored in an encrypted file on a secure server at the University. Only members of the research team can listen to these files. We will transcribe the audio-file, then remove any information that could identify your child. Then we will destroy the audio-file (within 6 months after completing interviews). The transcript will be kept in an encrypted file on a password-protected computer at the University for 7 years (as required by University regulations), then destroyed. If any of the questions are upsetting we will stop the interview and tell your child about professionals at school or in the community available to talk to.

Everything your child says will be strictly confidential; no one except members of the research team will see the information. Interviews will be conducted in a private setting out of earshot of other people.

**Whom should I contact if I have questions?**

If you have questions about the research, you should contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Brad Brown, or student researcher, Ashley Prudhom (see contact information above). If you are not satisfied with the response of the research team, have more questions, or want to talk with someone about your rights as a research participant, you should contact the Education Research and Social & Behavioral Science IRB Office at 608-263-2320.

Your child's participation is completely voluntary. Your child can decide not to answer any questions that make him/her feel uncomfortable, and your child can stop participating at any time.

**If you're willing to have your child participate**

If you consent to your child's participation in the study, please complete the information below. An extra copy of this form is included for you to keep. There is also an assent form for your child to read and sign. Please place the completed forms in the envelope provided and return them to the Principal Investigator. We will then contact you to arrange a time for your child's interview.

Your signature indicates that you have read this consent form, had an opportunity to ask any questions about your child's participation in this research, and voluntarily consent to participate.

Name of child who will be interviewed (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please check if you agree with the following statements:

- It is okay for the research team to audio-record the interview with my child.
- I give permission for my child to be quoted in future publication without including any identifiable information.

So that we can set up a time for the interview, please tell us your child's

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Student Research Assent Form

Title of the Study: High School Freshmen's Social Media Use: Changes Across the Freshman Year

Principal Investigator: Dr. B. Bradford Brown (608-262-0838; email: bbbrown@wisc.edu)

Student Researcher: Ashley Prudhom (aprudhom@wisc.edu)

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We would like you to be part of a research study by filling out a 5-minute survey and being interviewed twice for 45 minutes (each time). Everyone who completes both interviews will get \$40.00 cash--\$15 for the first interview (and short survey) in the Fall; and \$25 for the second interview, in the Spring. *And* your name will be entered in a drawing for \$100 cash prize.

These days, more and more young people are using social media. They use them to contact friends, post information about themselves. They might play games with other people their age or find out what famous people are saying and doing. But how do young people decide what social media to use or figure out how to use them? You can help us understand how all of this works by being in our study.

If you agree to be in our study we'll arrange to talk with you privately for about 45 minutes this Fall, and again next Spring. We'll talk about the kinds of social media you like to use and why. We'll ask how par-ents and peers figure into your use of social media. There are no right or wrong answers; this is not a test. We will find a time to talk that is convenient to you, probably at school but not during instructional time.

There are no direct benefits for participating and the risks are minimal. You might worry that other people will find out what you tell us, but we have taken steps to avoid that. We will make an audio-tape of the interview. No one except members of the research team will hear the audio-tape. When we make a written copy of the tape we will remove any information that might identify you as the participant. We'll destroy the audiotape by 6 months after the interviews are done. We have to keep the written copy for 7 years before destroying it, but only research team members can see it and it doesn't have any information that could identify you. You might find one of our questions upsetting, but you don't have to answer it. And if you get upset we'll stop the interview.

What you tell us will be strictly confidential. We won't share what you said with your parents or anyone else. No one except members of the research team will hear or read what you said. Your participation is completely voluntary. You don't have to be interviewed unless you want to. And you can decide not to answer a question or stop the interview anytime you want.

If you have questions, you should contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Brad Brown, or student researcher, Ashley Prudhom (see contact information above). If you have more questions you can talk to the Education Research and Social & Behavioral Science IRB Office at 608-263-2320.

If you sign this paper, it means that you have read this and that you want to be in the study. If you don't want to be in the study, don't sign this paper. Being in the study is up to you, and no one will be upset if you don't sign this paper or if you change your mind later.

Your printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

How to reach you to set up an interview (cell # or e-mail address): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you agree:

- It is okay for the research team to audio-record the interview with me.
- You can quote what I say without using my name.