

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Research Participant Information and Consent Form

Title of the Study: Social Media Use Among Middle School Students

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

Student Researcher: Angie Calvin (acalvin@wisc.edu)

Description of the research

More and more middle school students are using social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.). They communicate with peers, post information about themselves, or play on-line games. But there's surprisingly little research about how young people learn to use these media, which social media they prefer, or how often they are involved in misuse (e.g., cyberbullying). This makes it difficult for parents and school adults to know how to guide young people to use social media wisely. To develop better advice for parents and schools, we are conducting a research study. It is about social media use among 10- to 15-year olds. We would like your child to participate in this study.

What will my child's participation involve?

Young people who participate will be interviewed one time for about 45 minutes by a member of the research team. These interviews will occur in a private place at the organization that is participating in the study. The interviews will be audio-recorded.

What will my child get for participating?

As a thank you for participating, everyone who completes the interview will receive \$10 cash.

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. The transcript will be kept in an encrypted file on a password-protected computer at the University. If any of the questions are upsetting we will stop the interview and tell your child about professionals at school or in the community that he or she can 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, Angie Calvin (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 Participant (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

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Student Research Assent Form

Title of the Study: Social Media Use Among Middle School Students

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

Student Researcher: Angie Calvin (acalvin@wisc.edu)

We would like you to be part of a research study by agreeing to be interviewed for 45 minutes. Everyone who completes the interview will get \$10.00 cash.

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. We'll ask whether or not you use a cell phone and what you use it for. We'll talk about the kinds of social media you like to use and why. We'll talk about hurtful things that people can post on social media. We'll ask how parents and peers figure into your use of social media. There are no right or wrong answers because this is not a test.

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. When we make a written copy of the tape we will remove any information that might identify you as the participant. Then we'll destroy the audio-tape. No one except members of the research team will hear the audio-tape. 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 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, Angie Calvin (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 _____

Please check if you agree:

It is okay for the research team to audio-record the interview with me.