Dear Parent or Guardian:

As part of the educational experience here at Harvard, we invite all enrolled students to participate in Psychology studies during the course of the semester. If your son or daughter is under 18 years of age at the time you receive this letter, your permission is required before he or she can participate in these studies.

Students can see a list of available studies in the Psychology Department by creating an account on our Study Web site at https://husp.sona-systems.com/. From this Web site, students can read descriptions of studies and sign up for available times. When they participate in studies, students can earn small amounts of cash or Study Pool credits if they are enrolled in a participating Psychology course.

Participation is completely voluntary, and there is no penalty if a student does not want to participate in a study. Furthermore, if a student agrees to participate, he or she may discontinue participation at any time without penalty. All studies have been reviewed by Harvard University’s Committee on the Use of Human Subjects. Harvard University also requires that the students’ responses in all of these studies remain confidential. Participation in these studies does not influence any decision regarding future admissions to Harvard University.

With your approval, your son or daughter may participate in the following kinds of studies:

- Surveys, interviews, and studies that use questionnaires or other verbal or behavioral measures.
- Studies that use direct sensors (e.g., a blood pressure device) or remote sensors (e.g., a video-camera) to measure physiological and psychological reactions.
- Studies with minor deception in which participants are not told everything about the study until it is over.
- Studies in which information about the hypothesis and the experimental situation is revealed to the student after participation is completed. In this way, we seek to enhance students’ learning experience by providing detailed information about Psychology as a social science.

Your son or daughter will NOT be invited to participate in the following kinds of studies:

- Procedures that entail a risk of physical harm, involve hypnosis or unusual degrees of mental stress.
- Procedures that elicit information about activities that may be illegal or that are likely to offend prevailing standards of morality.

Please enter your name and your child’s name below to give your son or daughter permission to participate in Psychology Department studies when the age requirement includes individuals under 18 years of age. Your child may not participate in studies when the age requirement is 18 or older.

(Please PRINT) Your Child’s Name  _________________________

(Today’s Date)  _________________________

(Print your name) Parent or Legal Guardian

(Sign your name) Parent or Legal Guardian

Questions or problems? Contact the Study Pool Coordinator at 617-495-3891 OR send email to studypool@fas.harvard.edu.

Contact information for participant’s rights in this research: For questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints that are not being addressed by the researcher, or research-related harm, contact the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Harvard University, 1414 Massachusetts Avenue, Second Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Phone: 617-496-CUHS (2847). Email: cuhs@fas.harvard.edu.

Updated: 6/18/2014