

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Edward R. Murrow College of Communication

Research Study Consent Form

Study Title: 2014 Midterm Election: Political Communication and Beliefs

Researchers:

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You are being asked to take part in a research study carried out by Myiah Hutchens, Jay Hmielowski, and Michael Beam. This form explains the research study and your part in it if you decide to join the study. Please read the form carefully, taking as much time as you need. Ask the researcher to explain anything you don't understand. You can decide not to join the study. If you join the study, you can change your mind later or quit at any time. There will be no penalty or loss of services or benefits if you decide to not take part in the study or quit later. This study has been approved for human subject participation by the Washington State University Institutional Review Board.

What is this study about?

This research study is being done to help us understand the relationship between discussion, media use and political attitudes. The results from this study will provide scholars with a better understanding about the relationship between communication and political attitudes, and how changes in political attitudes from communication affect future information seeking behaviors and political engagement.

You are being asked to take part because you live in the United States. Taking part in the study will take about 30 minutes. You cannot take part in this study if you are under 18.

What will I be asked to do if I am in this study?

If you take part in the study, you will be asked to fill out an online survey discussing your communication habits and your attitudes and beliefs about politics.

Are there any benefits to me if I am in this study?

There is no direct benefit to you from being in this study. However, if you take part in this study, you may help others in the future better understand the relationship between communication and political decision-making.

Are there any risks to me if I am in this study?

The potential risks from taking part in this study are discomfort from thinking about politics and your communication behaviors. These risks are no more than what you experience in everyday life. To minimize these risks, you may refuse to answer any question that makes you uncomfortable.

Will my information be kept private?

The data for this study will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by federal and state law. No published results will identify you, and your name will not be associated with the findings.

The data will be stored on the Qualtrics servers and will be accessible only to Drs Hutchens, Hmielowski and Beam. Data will be downloaded for analysis on their office computers and stored in locked offices.

The results of this study may be published or presented at professional meetings, but the identities of all research participants will remain anonymous

The data for this study will be kept for 10 years.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

If you have questions about this study or the information in this form, please contact the researcher Dr. Myiah Hutchens, at 509-335-5842, or mhutchens@wsu.edu or PO Box 642530, Pullman WA 99164. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or would like to report a concern or complaint about this study, please contact the Washington State University Institutional Review Board at (509) 335-3668, or e-mail irb@wsu.edu, or regular mail at: Albrook 205, PO Box 643005, Pullman, WA 99164-3005.

Are there any costs or payments for being in this study?

There will be no costs to you for taking part in this study.

You will receive a half hour of research credit in your communication course for taking part in this study. If you decide to quit the study before completing it you will not receive credit. However, you can contact Dr. Myiah Hutchens at mhutchens@wsu.edu or 509.335.5842 to receive an alternate writing assignment to receive credit.

What are my rights as a research study volunteer?

Your participation in this research study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to be a part of this study. There will be no penalty to you if you choose not to take part. You may choose not to answer specific questions or to stop participating at any time.

Statement of Consent

By continuing with this survey, I give my consent to participate in this study.

Statement of Person Obtaining Informed Consent

I have carefully explained to the person taking part in the study what he or she can expect.

I certify that when this person signs this form, to the best of my knowledge, he or she understands the purpose, procedures, potential benefits, and potential risks of participation.

I also certify that he or she:

- Speaks the language used to explain this research
- Reads well enough to understand this form or, if not, this person is able to hear and understand when the form is read to him or her
- Does not have any problems that could make it hard to understand what it means to take part in this research.



Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

10/14/14

Date

Myiah Hutchens

Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent

PI

Role in the Research Study