

Information for Consent

Identification of Investigators & Purpose of Study

You are being asked to participate in a research study, conducted by Korey Asher, M.Ed candidate, from Brandon University. The purpose of this study is to identify what teachers' understanding of social media is; to identify what qualifiers constitute as student engagement, and; to determine how social media is used to affect student engagement. This study will contribute to the researcher's completion of his Master's thesis.

Research Procedures

If participating in this research study, you should identify as a Public School Teacher. It is assumed that you are at this particular point in the study because you have received a URL to access the SMSE2015 website. The website is constructed as three main pages: *Participate*, *Purpose and Procedure*, and *Questions/Contact*.

Participate

The landing page provided by the URL. On the Participate webpage, a brief procedure is given for participation in the research study. More importantly, this page links to the *Informed Consent PDF* (this document you are reading), and access to the three parts of the research study. Once a part of the research study has been completed, you may return to the Participate link to complete another part.

Purpose and Procedure

The Purpose and Procedure webpage introduces the information about: Identification of Investigator & Purpose of Study, and a brief description of the Research Procedure.

Questions/Contact

The Questions/Contact webpage offers contact information should you, as a participant, have any questions about the study, or questions about your rights as a research participant.

You are currently reading the *Informed Consent PDF* and will acknowledge that the entire Informed Consent PDF has or has not been read by checking the "Yes" or "No" box that corresponds with the appropriate part of the research study. The actual research study consists of three parts:

Part 1: Survey,

Part 2: Photo and Text Uploads, and

Part 3: Semi-structured Interview.

By answering "yes" to a specific part of the research study, the site will re-direct you to the corresponding part. For example: selecting "YES! I wish to participate!" of the Survey will re-direct you to the Survey.

By answering "no", the site will thank-you for your interest up to this point in the study, and no further participation will be necessary. For example: selecting "NO. Thank-you" of the Survey will re-direct you to a page stating "Thank-you for your time. No further participation in this research study will be required".

Participation in the Survey is anonymous; Participation in the Photo and Text Upload is anonymous; and Participation in the Semi-structured Interview is confidential.

Part 1: Survey

If you agree to complete the Survey, you will be required to respond to a total of seven open-ended questions. Participation in the Survey is considered indirectly anonymous. The questions are as follows:

- 1) In your own words describe social media.
- 2) Name the types of social media you currently use in your classroom.
- 3) In your own words describe "student engagement" .
- 4) Identify the types of behaviours that indicate student engagement in your classroom.
- 5) In your own words describe how social media enhances student engagement.
- 6) In your own words describe how social media inhibits student engagement.
- 7) Please provide an example of how you use social media to engage students in your classroom.

Part 2: Photo and Text Upload (optional)

If you agree to participate in the Photo and Text Upload, you will be required to read and understand the Photovoice PDF. The Photovoice PDF is a document available for download on the Photo and Text Upload page. Participation in the Photo and Text Upload is considered indirectly anonymous.

Photo and Text Uploads are also known as *photovoice methodology*. Photovoice methodology typically ascertains community beliefs. In this research study, the photovoice methodology will ascertain the needs of educators using social media to engage students. Participants will be asked to submit a photo file of social media use in the classroom (being mindful to obscure any identifying features of the student) along with a Word document that describes said scene. Once Photos and Text are uploaded, the researcher will not be able to recognize which submissions belong to a specific participant. Any unexpected, potential identifiers will be obscured before presentation of data.

Part 3: Semi-structured Interview (optional)

If you agree to submit contact information to this research study, the Primary Investigator will contact you. The Semi-structured Interview is considered confidential. Additionally, interviews will also request verbal confirmation. Upon contact, interviewees will be notified that the Semi-structured Interviews will only audio-record provided answers, images will not be video-recorded. This applies to telephone, Skype, or Facetime interviews. By using telephone, Skype, or Facetime, interviewees are assured the privacy of their immediate environment. Please note that as the interview is semi-structured, the questions are not exhaustive, but simply starting points. The interview will use questions based on the following options:

A semi-structured interview uses general guided questions. These general questions are based on the three research questions of:

- 1) What is social media?
 - a) "Trends in the survey indicate that..."
- 2) What is student engagement?
 - a) "From the survey, I understand that...What are your thoughts?"
- 3) How can social media affect student engagement?
 - a) "Answers from the survey reveal the aspect of..."

Additional questions may include:

- 4) Who are your students (describe the demographics e.g. grade level, subject, etc.)?
- 5) Are your students active in social media?
 - i) Yes: In which social media's are the students most active?
 - ii) No: Have you thought of a reason why not?
- 6) Is your classroom active in social media?
 - i) Yes: What social media is your classroom active with?
 - ii) No: Why is your classroom not active in social media?
- 7) Do you use different social media channels for different educational purposes?
 - i) Yes. What are the purposes?
 - ii) No: What purposes do you consider social media effective for?
- 8) Do you personally use social media?
 - i) Yes: How do you use social media?
- 9) Do you feel it assists your understanding of students' mindsets?
 - i) Yes: Describe how
 - ii) No: Why not
- 10) Who do you feel is responsible for implementing social media in the classroom?
- 11) Do you have a classroom use of social media strategy (similar to a mission statement)?
 - i) Yes: What are the main points?
 - ii) No: Have you considered forming one?
 - (a) Yes: What might it consist of?
 - (b) No: why not
- 12) What advantages do you see in social media in the classroom?
 - i) How do you use these advantages?
- 13) What negative aspects do you see in social media in the classroom?
 - i) How do you neutralize them?

All data collected will be used for the purposes of this qualitative research study, and the Principal Investigator may use results for additional publications and presentations.

Time Required

Participation in this study will require a total approximately <90 minutes of your time. To anonymously complete an online survey (<30 minutes), to anonymously upload digital images (<30 minutes), and consent to participate in a telephone or in-person interview (<30 minutes). It is hoped that participants will complete all three areas of participation, however, acknowledging the busy schedules of teachers, all participants are expected to complete the Survey, while the Photo and Text Upload is optional, and the Semi-structured Interview is optional

Risks

Teachers will be asked to contribute information that would be considered qualitative in nature. This study is considered minimal risk as the research is involving human participants, yet the information being collected is either anonymous or confidential, and will not result in the identification of an individual, for all practical purposes, when used alone or combined with other available information. The Principal Investigator does not perceive more than minimal risks from participant involvement in this study (that is, no risks beyond the risks associated with everyday life).

If you have questions or concerns during the time of your participation in this study, or after its completion or you would like to receive a copy of this study, please contact either the Principal Investigator or the Thesis Advisor (contact information provided at end of this letter)

Benefits

Potential benefits from participation in this study include a local representation of social media use occurring in Manitoba secondary schools, a qualitative interpretation of statements provided, potential suggestions for more effective use of social media in the classroom. There will be no direct benefits to any participants from accepting this invite to complete the survey(s).

Confidentiality

The results of this research will be presented at Brandon University. Survey responses are obtained anonymously, Photo and Text Uploads are obtained anonymously, and Semi-structured Interviews will be performed in confidence. Results will be recorded and secured via the Principal Investigators ownership of a “Pro” Weebly account, registered at www.SMSE2015.weebly.com. No identifiable responses will be presented in the final form of this study, alone or in combination. Any pictures uploaded by a participant that may reveal identifiable individual or location will have the elements in question pixelated. Data will also be presented representing averages or generalizations about the responses as a whole. All data will be stored in a secure location accessible only to the Principal Investigator and the Thesis Supervisor. The Principal Investigator retains the right to use and publish non-identifiable data. Data will be kept until December 31, 2017, after which all records will be deleted.

Participation & Withdrawal

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You are free to choose not to participate. Should you choose to participate, you can withdraw at any time without consequences of any kind. However, once your responses have been submitted and anonymously recorded you will not be able to withdraw responses from anonymous submissions.

Research Results

Research results should be available through publication. However, if participants wish to contact Korey Asher at (204) 721-3474 and at koreyasher@gmail.com, in order to receive a copy of the research results, they are welcome do so.

Questions about the Study

If you have questions or concerns during the time of your participation in this study, or after its completion or you would like to receive a copy of this study, please contact:

Korey Asher
Principal Investigator
Master’s Thesis Candidate
Brandon University
(204) 721-3474
koreyasher@gmail.com

Dr. Jacqueline Kirk
Thesis Supervisor
Chair, Graduate Studies
Brandon University
(204) 727-7380
kirkj@brandonu.ca

Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant

Research Office
BUREC
Brandon University
(540) (204) 727-9712
burec@brandonu.ca

Giving of Consent

This research study will collect information from participants in three parts. The three parts of this research study are:

- Part 1: Survey,
- Part 2: Photo and Text Uploads, and
- Part 3: Semi-structured Interview.

You, the participant will have to provide consent for each of the three parts. Consent will be given as outlined below:

Consent for Survey

If you wish to give consent, simply indicate “yes” by clicking on the button that states “YES! I wish to participate”. This action will re-direct you to a webpage that provides seven open-ended questions for you to complete. Complete all seven questions, then click “submit”.

You may quit participating at any time in the process, but be aware that once answers are submitted, the Principal Investigator will not be able to recognize which answers belong to a specific participant.

The Survey is considered anonymous.

Consent for Photo and Text Upload

If you wish to give consent, simply indicate “yes” by clicking on the button that states “YES! I wish to participate”. This action will re-direct you to a webpage that provides:

- A Photovoice PDF (instructions) to read,
- an area to upload a photo (JPEG),
- an area to upload text (DOC).

Read the Photovoice PDF first. Take your picture and write your interpretation of the associated picture. When ready, upload both files then click “submit”. You may quit participating at any time in the process, but be aware that once files are uploaded, the Principal Investigator will not be able to recognize which files belong to a specific participant. Any unexpected, potential identifiers will also be removed/altered before presentation of data.

The Photo and Text Upload is considered anonymous.

Consent for Semi-structured Interview

If you wish to give consent, simply indicate “yes” by clicking on the button that states “YES! I wish to participate”. This action will re-direct you to a webpage with contact fields to complete.

If you submit contact information to this research study, the Primary Investigator will contact you. Additionally, interviews will also request verbal confirmation. The verbal question stated as, “Have you read the Informed Consent PDF as presented on SMSE2015.weebly.com? If so, do you formally agree to participate in this Interview?”

The Semi-structured Interview is considered confidential.