

Are you between the ages of 16 and 22 years old?

Have you ever skipped classes or ever quit school altogether?

Would you like to share your school experiences as part of a research study?

If the answer to the above questions is "YES," we would like to invite YOU to participate in a study in which we are interviewing students about their school experiences. The interviews will be informal—more like a conversation—and your personal information will not be shared with anyone else except if required by law.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY YOU WILL NEED TO:

- 1. Review the attached information sheet and consent form carefully**
- 2. Complete the attached questionnaire**
- 3. Check the YES box on the consent form and sign the consent form if you decide to be part of the study**
- 4. Have a parent or guardian sign the consent form, as well, if you are under 18 years old and decide to be part of the study**
- 5. Return this packet of materials to the designated staff person at your school or agency. The form needs to be signed if you decide to be part of the study**

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UW Human Subjects
Review Committee

If you decide to be part of the study and have returned a signed consent form, you will then receive information from the designated person at your school or agency about scheduling an interview with a Washington Student Oral Histories researcher

If you decide NOT to participate in this study, please check the NO box on the consent form and return the packet to the designated staff person at your school or agency.

For volunteering you will receive a \$15 gift card from Target or a similar store.

For more information, contact: Antony Smith, University of Washington Bothell, by telephone: (425) 352-5416 or email: ansmith@uwb.edu

Note: The confidentiality of email correspondence cannot be guaranteed

What is the Washington Student Oral Histories Project? The purpose of this research project is to learn more about dropping out from the student's point of view. Dr. Antony Smith from the University of Washington Bothell and researchers Deborah Feldman and Barbara Waxman hope to gather stories from young people to help explore the dropout problem and how to address it. The researchers are interested in how school experiences from early elementary up to the present may have led youth to decide to stop going to school.

Who Might Participate? Dr. Smith is asking youth ages 16-22 who have either been truant or have dropped out of school for a time to be in this research study. The purpose of this information sheet and attached consent form is to give you and your child (16-18 years of age) the information you need to help you decide if you want your child to be in the study or not. You and your child can choose to volunteer for the study, or you may choose not to volunteer. You and your child may ask questions about the research, what your child will do if he or she decides to volunteer, or anything else that is not clear. When Dr. Smith and his research team have answered all of your questions, you and your child can decide if he or she will want to be in the study or not.

What Would Volunteer Youth be Asked to Do? Youth who choose to participate in the study would take part in one interview with Dr. Smith or a member of his research team. This interview would be scheduled with the help of a staff member at the school, and would take place at the school. The interview would last about 60 minutes. Interview questions would focus on school experiences from early years in elementary school up to the present time. These interviews would be tape-recorded for Dr. Smith and his research team to study later.

Taking part in this study is voluntary. Even if you and your child choose to take part in the study, he or she can stop at any time. Please talk about this study with your child and read the attached consent form carefully. Please follow the instructions on the form and return the packet of materials to school. Once these forms have been collected, Dr. Smith and his research team will work with a school or agency staff member to schedule interviews.

How Would the Study Information Be Used? Researchers plan to present study results in a brief report. This report will be shared with participating schools and agencies and the public at large. Parts of the interview information may be combined to create stories about dropping out that might be shared with the public. In order to protect the identity of individual participants, excerpts from different interviews would be combined to create these stories. No information identifying individual youth participants will be shared.

Who Is Sponsoring the Project?

● *UW Bothell Education Program.* The project's lead researcher is Antony Smith, PhD, Assistant Professor of Education at UW Bothell. He teaches and conducts research on reading assessment and professional development. He was an elementary school teacher before becoming a university professor.

● *Paragon Education Network (PEN),* a non-profit organization dedicated to improving teaching and learning. Barbara Waxman, PhD, is the lead consultant from PEN and will be co-managing the project with Deborah Feldman.

● *The Goodlad Institute for Educational Renewal,* which is affiliated with UW Bothell.

Contact Information: If you have questions about the project, please feel free to contact Antony Smith, Principal Investigator, by telephone (425) 352-5416 or by email at: ansmith@uw.edu

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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
CONSENT/ASSENT FORM
Washington Student Oral Histories Project

OCT 31 2011

UW

Antony Smith, Assistant Professor, UW Bothell Education Program (425) 352-5416
Deborah Feldman, Research Co-Director, Paragon Education Network (206) 729-2488
Barbara Waxman, Curriculum Co-Director, Paragon Education Network (206) 356-1865

Researchers' statement

We are asking you to be in a research study about your experiences in school. The purpose of this consent form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether you want to take part in this study or not. Please read the form carefully. You may ask questions about the purpose of the research, what we would ask you to do, the possible risks and benefits, your rights as a volunteer, and anything else about the research or this form that is not clear. When we have answered all your questions, you can decide if you want to be in the study or not. This process is called "informed consent." We will give you a copy of this form for your records.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to understand more about:

- (1) What leads students to stop attending school regularly or quit school altogether
- (2) What can be done to encourage students to stay in school and graduate

We will use face-to-face interviews to explore your school experiences. In the interview we will ask questions about your learning experiences, your interactions with teachers and peers and other factors that may have affected your attitude toward school and your decisions about attending school.

STUDY PROCEDURES

This study involves one interview. Conducted by a member of the research team, this interview will follow a list of questions and will last about 1 hour. Interviewers may ask follow-up questions to explore ideas that come up during the interview. We will ask you to complete a rating scale of school experiences to use as a way to talk about your school experiences.

Example interview questions include:

- What are some of your earliest memories of school—say in kindergarten or first grade?
- Was there a particular teacher you especially liked? Tell me about the teacher and why you liked being in his or her class
- I'd like to understand more about what made you start to not like being in school. Tell me about any experiences that you think may have influenced your feelings about school during this time.

You may refuse to answer any question or stop the interview at any time. You may decide not to complete the school experiences rating scale.

Interviews will be recorded using a digital audio recorder and microphone. You will be able to review the recording after the completion of the interview. The recording will not be shared with anyone outside our research group.

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RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

Sometimes people feel self-conscious when they are audio taped. If you decide you are not comfortable having your interview taped, the interviewer will not use the audio recorder.

In answering some of the interview questions, you may recall unpleasant or upsetting experiences; such memories might be uncomfortable or stressful for some people. As a volunteer, you can choose to not answer a question. You can also choose to end the interview at any point.

You may review the audio recording, and you may decide to delete any portions that you would rather not be part of the study.

A staff member at your site or school who helps with scheduling interviews may know that you are participating in this study. Information from individual interviews will not be shared with agencies or schools.

ALTERNATIVES TO TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY

Taking part in this study is voluntary. Those choosing not to participate will instead be part of regularly scheduled programs or activities.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

This study will benefit society by exploring the experiences of youth who have not attended school regularly or have dropped out. This information will help teachers, parents, and lawmakers make decisions that will help youth stay in school and graduate on time.

OTHER INFORMATION

You may refuse to participate and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty.

Every effort will be made to protect your confidentiality. However, if we learn that you intend to harm yourself or others, or if we learn about abuse of a minor, we must report that to the authorities at your school.

Once we have completed the interviews for this study, the names of all volunteers participating in interviews will be replaced with codes in order to protect the identity of the volunteers.. A list linking names to codes will be kept until June 30, 2013. Audio recordings will be kept until June 30, 2016, at which time they will be destroyed. Written transcripts of the interviews, without names, will be kept indefinitely.

Government or university staff sometimes review studies such as this one to make sure they are being done safely and legally. If a review of this study takes place, records may be examined. The reviewers will protect your privacy. The study records will not be used to put youth volunteers at legal risk of harm.

You will receive a \$15 gift card to a retail store, such as Target, at the end of the interview. This gift card is a way to say thank you for taking the time to be interviewed for this study.

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Please answer the following questions and return this questionnaire with the signed consent form in the envelope provided. Do not write your name on this paper.

1. What is your age? Circle one:

16-17

18-19

20-22

2. Have you ever dropped out of school for one month or more? Circle one:

YES

NO

3. While you were in middle school or high school, did you ever skip a class twice a week or more during a semester? Circle one:

YES

NO

Please be sure to return this questionnaire, along with the signed consent/assent form, in the envelope provided. Thank you!

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