

What is the Washington Student Oral Histories Project? The purpose of the project is to learn more about dropping out from the student's point of view. We hope to gather stories, or oral histories, from young people as a way of exploring the dropout problem and how to address it. We will interview volunteer youth who have either been truant or have dropped out of school for a period of time. The interviews will focus on school experiences from early elementary up to the present. We want to know how school factors may have influenced the decision to stop going to school.

How Will Participants Be Selected and Interviewed? The researchers will work with organizations in the state, such as GED programs and youth service providers, to identify youth who have had problems attending school or are currently out of school. We will interview volunteers on site. Interviews will last about 60 minutes. All interviews will be kept confidential. Only the researchers involved in the study will have access to interview transcripts. Participating youth and their parents will be asked to sign a consent form before the interview. As a token of appreciation, the interviewer will offer each youth who completes an interview a \$15 gift card from a major local retailer, such as Target or Wal-Mart.

How Will the Study Information Be Used? Researchers will present study results in a brief report. This report will be shared with participating organizations and the public at large. Parts of the interview transcripts may also be combined to create stories about dropping out that might be shared with the public. These stories might also be used in the future to develop curriculum materials for students at risk of dropping out of school. In order to protect the identity of individual participants, excerpts from different interviews would be combined to create these stories.

Who Is Sponsoring the Project?

● *UW Bothell Education Program.* The project's lead researcher is Antony Smith, PhD, an Assistant Professor of Education at UW Bothell. He teaches and conducts research on reading assessment and effective models of 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 one of us at the email or phone numbers listed at the bottom of the page.

Next Steps: We are looking to interview students, ages 16-22, who have dropped out of school or who have missed class for a long time. If you would like to volunteer to take part in this study, please:

1. **Review this information sheet carefully**
2. **Sign the attached consent form, and if you are under 18 years old, have your parent or guardian sign the form**
3. **Fill out the brief questionnaire, attached**
4. **Return the signed consent form and completed questionnaire in the envelope provided**

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