Student’s Assent for Being in a Research Study
University of Montana

Title: Understanding Water Systems

What is this project and why is it being done?
You are invited to participate in being interviewed for the Understanding Water Systems Project. This project is being conducted by researchers, teachers and students at the University of Montana. The project involves collection of information from students while your class learns about Earth’s water systems. Your participation will help teachers learn about effective ways to teach science so that all students can understand how water systems work.

What will happen to me?
All students in your class will participate in some aspects of this project, including completing some assessments about water science and completing a survey about your learning experiences related to water. These assessments and surveys, and some of your class science work will be shared with the project researchers.

The researchers will also interview a few students from your teacher’s classroom to learn more about how students think about water systems. It is up to you whether or not you would like to participate in the project interviews. Students who decide to be interviewed will be interviewed near the starting and ending dates of when your class learns about water. An interview will take about 30 minutes and will be videotaped.

Can anything bad happen to me?
There are minimal risks involved in participating in this study. For example, you may feel uncomfortable if you are asked a question about water systems that you’re not confident you know very much about. It’s perfectly ok if you’re not sure about your understanding of water systems. Your participation in this project will not affect your grade in any way. The researchers are interested in learning about students’ ideas related to water systems. By studying students’ ideas, we can learn how to do a better job teaching science in ways that help all students learn. We’re not checking just to see if you got the answer right. Any ideas about water that you share will be helpful to this project.

Benefits of Participating
As mentioned above, the benefit of participating in this study is that you’ll be helping us explore how to teach science to help all students learn about water in environmental systems. By participating, you’ll have a chance to share your ideas with teachers and researchers who will listen closely to what you have to say and use the information to improve teaching in your classroom and other classrooms around the country.

What if I have any questions?
You can ask your teacher any questions you have about the study any time. If you would like to talk to the researcher at the University of Montana, you can call Dr. Beth Covitt at 243-4660.

Do my parent’s [guardians] know about this?
The opportunity to participate in the interviews was explained to your parents [guardians] and they said that you could be interviewed. You can talk this over with them before you decide.
Do I have to be interviewed?
Your participation in the project interviews is completely voluntary. If you do not want to be interviewed, just tell your teacher. You can say yes now and change your mind later. It’s up to you.

Please read the two options below, check that you are or are not willing to participate in the interviews, then sign this form and return it to your teacher.

___ I AM WILLING to be interviewed. I understand that participation involves one or two videotaped interview where I would answer some questions and share my ideas about water systems.

___ I AM NOT WILLING to be interviewed.

Print Your Name Here__________________________________________

Sign Your Name Here__________________________________________

Today’s Date___________________________________