

IES WAVES Study  
Consent Form

### What is a Consent Form?

A **consent form** is a document that you sign to say that you agree to do something. In this case, we are asking that you agree to participate in a study. The study **purpose** (why we are doing the study), **procedures** (what will happen during the study), **compensation** (how you will be paid for the study), **privacy** (how your identity will be protected), and **your rights** are described below. If you “consent” it means that you agree to participate in the study.

**PURPOSE.** This study will explore the importance of writing and success at 4-year colleges. Educational Testing Service (ETS) is conducting the study with funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES). ETS is a nonprofit organization that works with education institutions, businesses and governments to conduct research and develop assessments, such as the GRE, TOEFL, and Praxis among others, that provide meaningful information to evaluate people and programs.

**PROCEDURES.** Your active participation in the study will take place over the course of the semester and involve the following:

1. **Writing Attitudes and Beliefs Survey.** You will be asked to complete a brief survey (10-15 minutes) asking about your attitudes and beliefs about writing.
2. **HEIghten Testing.** During the semester, you will take two sections of the HEIghten assessment: (1) a writing assessment (45 minutes), and (2) a critical thinking assessment (45 minutes).
3. **Assignment Uploads.** You will be asked to upload your writing assignments that you complete for your course(s) during the semester into the ETS web portal.
4. **Assignment Surveys.** For each writing assignment that you upload, you will be invited to complete an optional, five-question survey.
5. **Data Sharing.** You will need to provide consent to your university to share the following information *for research purposes only*: your cumulative GPA, credits earned, courses taken, major, enrollment status, level (freshman, sophomore, etc.), college admissions test scores, course placement test scores (if applicable), high school GPA and rank, demographic information, and degrees awarded by June 2020. Demographic information collected will include: gender, race/ethnicity, year of birth, state of residence, and nonresident alien status. Your university enrollment status, final course grades, course enrollments, cumulative GPA, and major will be collected each term through the end of the study in 2020.

**COMPENSATION.** You will be compensated a total of \$100 in the form of electronic gift certificates to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for your full participation. You may receive smaller payments for partial participation as described below.

1. A *full* payment of \$100 will be awarded based on satisfactorily completing all required tasks: 1) the Writing Attitudes and Beliefs survey, 2) both HEIghten exams, and 3) the assignment uploads.
2. A *partial* payment of \$75 will be awarded by satisfactorily completing both HEIghten exams.
3. A *partial* payment of \$25 will be awarded by satisfactorily completing 1) the Writing Attitudes Survey, and 2) the assignment uploads.

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**SECURITY & PRIVACY.** All data will be kept confidential and will be used *for research purposes only*. Personal information, including your name and email address, will be stored on encrypted servers. “Encryption” helps to protect your data so that others cannot see it. Only project team members designated by ETS will be able to access personal information. Your email address will be used only to communicate with you during the data collection phase of the study. Any personal information that could identify you will be removed or changed before files are shared with others, including other researchers and IES, or results are made public. Files would include data collected from the PROCEDURES listed above. Personal identifiers will be replaced with unique project ID numbers for the data analysis performed at ETS. All personal identifiers collected will be destroyed 5 years after the completion of the study.

**RISKS.** There are minimal risks or discomforts associated with the completion of this research study. These discomforts and risks might include a potential breach of confidentiality, however, the researchers will guard against any disclosure of personally identifying information as described above.

**YOUR RIGHTS.** Your participation in this study will not in any way affect your course grades. Your participation is entirely optional and voluntary. You can withdraw from the study at any time while the study is in progress. However, if you do withdraw, you will not receive any compensation. To withdraw and have your data removed from the study, please notify Jill Burstein ([jburstein@ets.org](mailto:jburstein@ets.org)) or Dan McCaffrey ([dmccaffrey@ets.org](mailto:dmccaffrey@ets.org)).

**CONTACT US.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jill Burstein ([jburstein@ets.org](mailto:jburstein@ets.org)) and Dan McCaffrey ([dmccaffrey@ets.org](mailto:dmccaffrey@ets.org)), the study’s Principal Investigators.

**INFORMED CONSENT.** By logging into this web portal, I hereby voluntarily consent to participating in this study conducted by ETS and agree to the conditions described above. I also affirm that (1) I am 18 years of age or older, (2) I **have not** received payment from ETS for any other service performed during the current calendar year 2018, and (3) I am not an employee of ETS or an ETS PASS (Performance Assessment Scoring Services) employee.

[Link to Web Portal](#)