**Statement of Informed Consent for the research project entitled:**

**“Persuasive Ability, Video Games, and Distraction”**

**Introduction to the Study:**

* You are being asked to participate in this study in order to attain credit for experimental participation in your Introductory Psychology (PSYC 1000) class.
* Joseph Hilgard of the University of Missouri is conducting this study, with the assistance of graduate and undergraduate research assistants.
* You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in this study.

**Purpose:**

* This study is designed to examine the relationship between persuasive ability, video game skill, and the effects of playing video games on reaction time.

**What Will Happen During the Study:**

* Pictures will be taken of your hands using a flatbed scanner.
* You will first be asked to write an essay on a controversial topic and exchange it with a partner.
* We will then ask you to play a video game for a period of 20 minutes.
* After the video game, you will be asked to complete a task intended to evaluate the extent to which distraction (auditory or tactile) might influence task performance. If you are assigned to the auditory distraction task, you will perform a computer task while listening to distracting music for some duration of the task. If you are assigned to the tactile distraction task, you will perform the same computer task while placing one hand in cold water for some duration of the task.
* Finally, we will ask you to complete a few brief surveys.
* Upon completion, you will receive 1 hour of experimental credit (2 credits). The experiment is expected to last no longer than 1 hour.
* All participants will be male undergraduate students at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Your Privacy is Important:**

* We will make every effort to protect your privacy.
* An arbitrary code number has been assigned to you for this study. This code number cannot be used to personally identify you, and your name or other identifying information will not appear anywhere in the data you provide today.
* The results of this experiment will not be linked to any specific individual; we are only interested in group averages.

**Your Rights:**

* You decide on your own whether or not you want to be in this study.
* You will not be treated any differently if you decide not to be in this study.
* If you decide to be in the study, you will receive 1 hour (2 credits) of experimental credit, and you will have the right to leave at any time. If you withdraw from participation once the study has begun, you will still receive the amount of experimental credit for PSYC 1000 commensurate with the time you spend here (at least one credit).
* Remember that you may also obtain course credit by participating in other studies, or by writing brief papers.
* If at any time you have any questions or concerns about being in this study, you should contact Joseph Hilgard (Room 121, Psychology Building) at 882-1944, or jbhkd6@mail.missouri.edu.

**Institutional Review Board Approval:**

* If you have questions concerning this study or your rights as a research participant, feel free to contact the CIRB by calling 882-9585.

**Benefits of the Research**

* This research will provide no direct benefits to you. You will, however, be compensated for your time in experimental research credits.
* This research will help us to understand the cognitive outcomes of video game use.

**Risks of the Research**

* You may be experience mild discomfort as a result of the controversial essay topic.

**Summary:**

* I understand that this is a research study examining relationships between game ability, persuasive ability, and distractibility.
* If I agree to be in this study, the following things will happen:
* My hands will be scanned.
* I will write a brief, informal persuasive essay.
* I will play a video game for 20 minutes.
* I will complete a task which evaluates the effect of distraction on performance. To measure the influence of distraction on this task, I may be asked either to listen to music or put my hand in cold water.
* I will complete a brief survey.
* I will receive 1 hour of experimental credit for my Introductory Psychology class.

I have had the chance to ask questions about this study if I have any, and they have been answered for me. I understand that I may ask questions at any time during or following the study.

I have read the information in this consent form, I am at least 18 years of age, and I agree to be in the study. There are two copies of this form. I have the option to keep one copy; the other will be returned to the investigator.

(Signature of participant) (Date)

(Printed name of participant)