

Response to Reviewers' Comments
A Pilot Study of Student Attitudes toward Higher Education Survey

1. The pilot study employs a pre-test/post-test method. The pre-test questions were to be attached to the large group registration form required by Undergraduate Admissions for students visiting Texas State for group tours. A representative from Undergraduate Admissions requested that these large group registration forms be completed by the students prior to their arrival at Texas State, which is why the Synopsis of Proposal indicated that the questions would be emailed. For this reason, the teacher's involvement was deemed necessary.
2. The invitation for Advanced Placement human geography students was supported by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the Department of Geography.
3. The respective high school administrators authorized the students' attendance to the Texas Geography Student Research Symposium. Since this pilot study is evaluative in nature, will serve to improve the Texas Geography Student Research Symposium's offerings for future Advanced Placement human geography students, and contains only innocuous items, no direct school district approval was not sought. The activities at the Texas Geography Student Research Symposium were deemed appropriate for the school district to authorize their students' attendance and the consent to conduct a program evaluation was given tacitly.
4. The specific items to be sent to teachers have been included in the revised synopsis of proposal (dated May 3rd). Since this pilot study will serve to evaluate the activities offered to the high school students, both teacher and student feedback is needed.
5. Since students' participation in the Texas Geography Research Symposium was optional, the researcher will stress to the teachers that the post-test surveys that they will be asked to distribute to students are entirely optional.
6. As per Section 46.116(c) of the Protection of Human Subjects document, evaluative research for service programs does not require student assent or parental approval. Students received parental permission, as well as school district approval, to attend the Texas Geography Research Symposium sessions.
7. The students visited Texas State on March 6, 2009. Pending IRB approval, the post-test survey and teacher survey will be administered.