IRB SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSAL

1. The purpose of this research study is to determine if there is a relation between middle and high school students and the types of health-risk behaviors they could be engaging in that are unhealthy, habit-forming, addictive, and dangerous and place their health at risk.

I will identify six classes from the Judson Secondary Alternative School, Judson Independent School District to participate in the research study. Two groups of participants will be identified for the research study. One group will consist of middle school students and the other group high school students. These students will serve as the participants who engage in risk behaviors.

2. I seek authorization to conduct a research study from the Principal from Judson Secondary Alternative school, Judson Independent School District.

3. My research intent is to obtain a minimum sample size of sixty students. A sample of thirty participants will be selected from the middle school student population; another sample of thirty participants from the high school student population. Students selected to participate in the modified Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) will be notified on its intended purpose. Parents will be notified by letter that their student was selected for the survey and the researchers intended purpose. Consent forms will be required on all participants selected for the research study. The consent form will ensure that the participant and parent/guardian are aware the student is participating in an academic research study. Each participant and parent/guardian will be asked to read and sign a consent form before completing the survey.

Middle school and high students will be identified by a coded number (middle school code 00000678, high school code 09101112). The participant’s identity will not be revealed. Dates will be coordinated with Judson Secondary Alternative School teachers and administrators to administer the survey. An excel spreadsheet will track the results of the survey. One the days that the survey is administered, it will be explained to the students that the survey is about health-risk behaviors and has been developed to tell, what behaviors they engage in that may that may affect their health. The survey should not take longer than 45 minutes. To ensure strict confidentiality, I will administer and collect the surveys. The data from the survey will be entered into an excel spreadsheet and then uploaded into SPSS. SPSS will allow for statistical calculations to be run on the data and the tables will be analyzed. The tables will be evaluated by inspecting the tables and verifying that the data was imported from the excel spreadsheet correctly into SPSS to assess the quantitative evaluation. A final report will be produced based on my findings and a copy will be submitted to Judson Secondary Alternative School Principal and to my professor at Texas State University.

4. The primary risk to participants is the discomfort that can occur from being tested. I will do everything that I can to minimize this discomfort and to put them at ease. You may decline to answer any question(s) and you can choose to discontinue answering the survey at any time.

5. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to refuse to be in the study, and your refusal will not influence academic success at the Judson Secondary Alternative School. If you wish to stop your participation in this research study for any reason, you should contact: Tonia Howze at 210-867-2623 or at [th1049@txstate.edu](mailto:th1049@txstate.edu) or razmti@aol.com. You are free to withdraw your consent and stop participation in this research study at any time without penalty. Throughout the study, the researchers will notify you of new information that may become available and that might affect your decision to remain in the study.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be administered. It is an 87 questions survey and it takes about 45 minutes to complete. It is strictly voluntary, as well as confidential. A final report will be provided to school administrators based on the survey results.

6. There are no costs associated with participating in this study. There is no benefit to researchers participating in this study beyond publishing or presenting the results

7. Research is not being funded.

8. This study does not involve physical risk and no injuries are anticipated; however, no treatment will be provided for research related injury and no payment can be provided in the event of a medical problem.

9. The research site will be the Judson Secondary Alternative School, Judson Independent School District Converse Texas. Agency approval is attached.

10. My name is Tonia Howze and I am a graduate student attending Texas State University. I am requesting your permission to conduct a research study at the Judson Secondary Alternative School (JSAS), Judson Independent School District.

11. Individuals who will have access to the results of this study will my professor Michael Pierson, Kathryn Korelich, Principal of Judson Secondary Alternative School and I.