\*\*Details of how each concern was addressed are noted after each item in blue.\*\*

-In synopsis, researcher writes, “Students will be told that completion of the survey is voluntary, confidential, and anonymous.” Researcher should understand that while participation is voluntary, data will either be anonymous or held in confidence. Please be clear as to which data will be anonymous  (no personal identifiers linked to data) or confidential  (personal identifiers linked to name but protected). Language in synopsis has been modified in item #2 and also in the consent form, paragraph 2.

-Some questions asked (e.g., “I find it difficult to trust others completely.”) may be sensitive to some and may result in one questioning oneself and one’s competence in relationships. For this reason, this reviewer recommends you include a referral to the TxState Counseling Center. Since all of your participants are registered TxState students, state that mental health services at the Counseling Center are free to registered students, though the number of sessions allowed may be limited. Added to consent form, paragraph 3.

-This reviewer is unclear as to why researcher is asking for subject’s significant other’s initials. Please explain. I ask for the subject’s significant other’s initials in order to collect the most accurate and reliable data possible. The subject may have had multiple relationships, yet this survey focuses on their current relationship (or their most recent if they are not currently involved). Writing of the initials helps the subject keep their relationship and significant other at the forefront of their minds. It also ensures that they have been in a relationship and are an appropriate subject to complete the survey for the purpose of this research. The initials are not meant to identify the subject in any way, but rather for them to keep focus on the particular survey items at hand.

-In consent form, researcher writes, “Data about you, your interpersonal relationship, and computer-mediated communication will not be shared with other participants, nor will it be shared with Texas State University-San Marcos employees.” Is researcher attempting to say that data will be kept confidential? If so, please say that clearly. Also, say who will have access to data. Omitted. Data is already anonymous, so confidentiality is not an issue.

-If consent forms are collected separately from surveys, then data collected via survey is anonymous and consent forms will be kept confidential.  Please state this clearly. Added to consent form, paragraph 3, and synopsis item #2.

-Near the beginning of the consent form, clearly state the purpose(s) of the research project. Added to consent form, paragraph 1.

-Provide the reason(s) why the participant has been chosen/asked to participate. In consent form, paragraph 3.

-For questionnaires/surveys/instruments that may be sensitive in nature, include in the consent form a sample question(s) from the questionnaire/survey/instrument so that each participant is fully informed prior to giving consent. Subjects need to have an idea about the types of questions they’ll be asked. Added to consent form, paragraph 2.  
  
-List the physical and/or psychological risks to participants. Added to consent form, paragraph 3.  
  
- in consent form, please include a statement that participants may choose to not answer any question(s) for any reason. Added to consent form, paragraph 3.  
  
- Regarding the data collection procedures, the consent form must include a statement of confidentiality or anonymity.  If the data collection is conducted in such a fashion where the participant is known to the researcher and the participant’s name can be matched to his/her data, the data collection procedure is confidential.  If not, then the data collection procedure is anonymous. In consent form, paragraphs 2 and 3.  
  
- Regarding data records and record keeping, include a statement describing the extent, if any, to which confidentiality of records identifying the participant will be maintained, and how and where they will be secured. Added to consent form, paragraph 4.  
  
- The location and length of time the survey data, videotapes, audio recordings etc. will be kept must be explicitly stated. Added to consent form, paragraph 4.  
  
-The consent form must state that a summary of the findings will be provided to participants upon completion of the study, if requested. Researcher should include instructions for participant with regard to how to access results of study. In consent form, paragraph 4.  
  
-On the consent form, the IRB approval number must be clearly noted. Now bolded next to name at signature line in consent form and in paragraph 1.

-Participants must receive a copy of the consent form for all data collection protocols. Copies will be provided to participants at the time of data collection. Added to synopsis item #2.  
  
06/04/09 01:13:55  
Consent  
  
1.      You may have students who are not yet 18 in these introductory class.  You need to include an agreement on the consent that participants are 18 years of age (or they cannot participate without a parent or guardian’s consent as well).  You will have to design a protocol so that those who are not 18 do not complete surveys. Added to participant certification of consent form above signature lines, and added to synopsis item #2. Researcher will explicitly state before data collection that no one under 18 years of age can participate in the completion of the survey.

2.      You need to describe where and how the study data and the consent forms will be stored for the period of up to one year (from the conclusion of data collection? from the conclusion of data analysis?  Be as specific as possible). Added to consent form, paragraph 4.

3.      You need to give direction as to how they may withdraw from the study. Added to consent form, paragraph 3.

4.      You need to clarify what is anonymous and what is confidential.  For example their participation is confidential, not anonymous (you will have consent forms with their names on them, and you will hold them confidential).  The data may be anonymous if the surveys are collected separately from the consent forms. Added to consent form, paragraphs 2 and 3.

5.      You say that data will not be shared with university employees.  You probably mean that individually identifiable data will not be shared (you will of course share the aggregated data with your committee, as well as possibly others). Specific statement altered in consent form, paragraph 3.

6.      Foreseeable Risks – You state in the synopsis there are none, but some of those questions, particularly those about the relationship, may create stress and anxiety.  You should include a discussion of these risks, and you should provide a referral for where they could go for support should they experience psychological or emotional discomfort (the Student Counseling Center). Added to consent form, paragraph 3.

7.      In the consent (and on the survey) you should note that they might choose not to answer any questions that make them uncomfortable. In consent form, paragraph 3, and added to all versions of survey.  
  
Minor editing paragraph 1  
  
“If you do, it will in no way effect your relationship with the department,”  
should read  “will in no way affect your…” Change made.  
  
Survey  
1.      We need to see all surveys that will be used (so we can see the variations).  The variations are described in the synopsis, but we only received a copy of a single survey. All versions of survey now submitted.

2.      Why do you ask for the significant other’s initials?  There seems no purpose for this. I ask for the subject’s significant other’s initials in order to collect the most accurate and reliable data possible. The subject may have had multiple relationships, yet this survey focuses on their current relationship (or their most recent if they are not currently involved). Writing of the initials helps the subject keep their relationship and significant other at the forefront of their minds. It also ensures that they have been in a relationship and are an appropriate subject to complete the survey for the purpose of this research. The initials are not meant to identify the subject in any way, but rather for them to keep focus on the particular survey items at hand.