REVIEWER 1 COMMENTS:

1. “Consent Form” must be the title of the document, not “Informed Consent”. Informed consent is considered an action or an ongoing process of communication between the participant and the researcher.

A: The change has been made in the revised document.

2. A statement that the study involves research should be included in one of the first few sentences of the consent form.

A: Statement to that effect has been added in the first sentence of the consent form.

3. Mention in the consent form that in addition to a reflective paper the participant will also be answering several questions regarding their participation in the support groups.

A: Added in the first paragraph

4. The IRB approval number must be clearly noted on the consent form.

A: Added under the title of the study

5. There should be a signature line for the researcher.

A: Added

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IRB SYNOPSIS

Incomplete and does not follow guidelines. As stated at the start of the IRB Synopsis form:

“Every application submitted for review and approval shall have attached to it a page organized in numerical brief paragraph form as outlined below.”

Listed below is the Texas State webpage which contains the process and sections which must be answered:

http://www.txstate.edu/research/orc/humans-in-research/synopsis.html

A: This has been added and uploaded.

Consent Form;

I agree with the other reviewer about the Consent Form: In addition, here are a few recommendations.

\* In the last paragraph, remove the word “informed” by changing “by signing this informed consent form” to “by signing this consent form”

A: Change has been made.

\* Add a clarification that the second paper for this assignment will NOT include their name, the additional copy will be submitted separately to the department administrative secretary, and the primary investigator will not have access to this copy till final grade submissions for the course has been completed.

A: The entire paragraph under confidentiality has been reworded and rearranged to increase clarity and readability.

\* Minor wording suggestions:

-- In your first section (Dear Student), the first sentence does not make sense. Suggestion, either “to be a participant” or “to participate“

A: Changes made.

-- Risk section: question – is “with” necessary at the beginning of the first sentence.

A: No, that was a typo and has been fixed.