

Version Date: July 2, 2015

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

ASSENT FORM

Project Title: Building on Blocks-based Programming

Principal Investigator or Faculty Advisor: Uri Wilensky, PhD, School of Education and Social Policy

Supported by: Northwestern University

My name is David Weintrop.

I want to tell you about a research study I am doing. A research study is usually done to find a better way to treat people or to understand how things work. In this study, I want to find out more about how high school students learn to program computers.

You are being asked to be in this study because you have/are enrolled in an introductory computer science class. In any study, only people who want to take part are allowed to do so. You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to do so.

If it is okay with you and you agree to join this study, as part of the study you will participate in the following activities:

- Class observations: Researchers will observe and videotape your computer science class. We will observe the first 15 weeks of class but will be careful not to get in the way of normal classroom activities.
- Coursework: Samples of the work you complete in class during the first 15 weeks of class will be collected. These materials will be collected online and not interfere with the class.
- Interviews: You will be asked if you want to participate in one-on-one interviews with the researcher. These interviews are voluntary and will take place at a time that is convenient for you (for example, after school). The interviews will last for roughly 30 minutes and you will be asked questions about concepts from class and have you work through additional activities similar to those used in the class. Interviews will occur at most once a week for the 15-week duration of the study.
- Surveys: You will be asked to take a short (roughly 20 minutes) attitudinal survey three times during the study and two content assessments. All students in the class will take these assessments; only students who agree to participate will have their responses shared with the researcher.

Sometimes the questions I ask you might seem strange and make you feel uncomfortable because they may be difficult or you might not know the answer.

If you are uncomfortable with some of the questions, please let us know and I will stop.

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I do not know if you will be helped by being in this study. You will be exposed to new programming environments, which may be beneficial. However, I may learn something that will help other students in the future.

You do not have to be in this study. It is up to you. You can say no now or you can even change your mind later. All you have to do is tell us. No one will be mad at you if you change your mind.

You will not be paid for taking the time to be in the classroom portion of this study. If you volunteer to be interviewed outside of class, you will be given a \$5 Mariano's gift card.

Your parents/guardian say it is okay for you to be in this study. If you have questions, please ask them now or at anytime.

If you are not happy with this study and want to talk to someone else other than Uri Wilensky, David Weintrop or the people helping Uri Wilensky, you can talk to your parents and they can call the Northwestern University Institutional Review Board (IRB) Office at 312-503-9338.

ASSENT

This study has been explained to me and I am willing to be in it.

Please initial one of the following to indicate your choice:

_____ I agree to participate in this study and to be videotaped during my class.

_____ I do not agree to participate in this study and to be videotaped during my class.

Please initial one of the following to indicate your choice:

_____ I agree to have videos of me shown in publications and presentations at scientific meetings.

_____ I do not agree to have videos of me shown in publications and presentations at scientific meetings.

Your Name (printed) and Signature

Date

Check which applies below *[to be completed by the person administering the assent]*.

☐ The teen is capable of reading and understanding the assent form and has signed above as documentation of assent to take part in this study.

☐ The teen is not capable of reading the assent form, but the information was verbally explained to him/her. The teen signed above as documentation of assent to take part in this study.

Name (printed) and Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

Date