

## Sample Written Consent Form

The following consent form was prepared by the author for field methods classes, based on questions discussed in relation to establishing informed consent.

---

I, ....., agree to participate in elicitation conducted by  
..... at ..... for the period .....

I will be paid \$..... per hour.

I understand that sessions will be recorded, and that I may request that the recorder be turned off at any time, for any reason.

I understand that the recordings may be duplicated for members of the class to listen to, but that they will not be further distributed without my permission.

I do / do not give permission for video recordings to be made.

I do / do not wish to remain anonymous in all materials produced as the result of this fieldwork. I understand that if I choose to be anonymous, all effort will be made to respect this wish but complete anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

I do / do not give permission for primary materials (field notes, audio and video recordings) to be made available to others.

I do / do not give permission for secondary materials (such as academic papers giving analyses of the language) to be made available to others, or published on the internet or in print.

I do / do not wish to be informed before language materials collected in this class are used for a purpose other than that for which they were originally intended.

Any other restrictions or specifications are listed below:

Signed by consultant:

Date:

Signed by class members and instructor:

Date:

(Signed by witness:)

Date:

---

In areas where it is not possible or meaningful to use a signed consent form, the following checklist of points is discussed, with the discussion recorded.

---

### **Sample Verbal Consent Script**

It is part of the conditions of this project that I obtain ‘informed consent’ from everyone working with me. That is, we need to have it recorded that you want us to do this work, and we need to be clear about any restrictions that you want to put on the work (for example, things that we shouldn’t talk about). I need to know about it so that your wishes can be respected. I’m going to ask you some questions about our language work. Please interrupt me at any time if you have any questions.

#### **Project logistics**

- You may stop working with me at any time and you don’t need to tell me why you want to stop.
- You’ll get paid \$\_\_ per hour while we’re working.
- You can work as much as you’d like, when you like.

#### **Recording**

- Is it all right if the sessions are recorded? (They are recorded so that I can make sure that I have written down the words correctly, and so that people can listen to the words and stories later on.)
- If you are uncomfortable with being recorded, we can turn off the tape at any time. You do not need to give a reason.
- Is it all right for other people to listen to this tape? (Your family? Other people from this area? Anyone?)

#### **Identification of participants**

- Is it all right if I tell other people that you are working with me on Language (for example, is it all right if your name goes on the list of storytellers)?
- If not, should I use a nickname? (ask for nickname)
- (Make sure person understands that I will do my best to respect these wishes but it can’t be absolutely guaranteed.)

Permission to disseminate materials

- Who can have access to this work when we finish? Do they need to ask permission first? Who should they ask? Can I show my students and colleagues the work we've done so far?
- Can they listen to the recordings and look at the written transcriptions?
- How about stories?
- Is there anything that should be kept secret?
- Can I put copies of everything in an archive (*explain archive*) in case anything happens to my copies?

Permission to use the raw materials in other linguistic projects

- Is it all right for me to write articles and books about your language? (for example, to use words and phrases in writing about language in Australia?)
- Do you want to see a copy before it is published, and should I send you a copy afterwards?
- Can I use language work for more than one purpose? For example, if we write a dictionary of your language, is it all right if I use that information to study the sounds in your language?