

Appendix A



Greetings Connecticut Science Fair Student-Scientist and parent/guardian,

About 18 years ago I was a high school student and presented my science fair project. I congratulate you on your accomplishment of making it to the 2007 Connecticut Science Fair and wish you good luck. It takes a real star to persevere and produce a high quality project.

I am writing to invite you to take part in a study that I am conducting as part of my dissertation research at Western Connecticut State University. I am a doctoral student there, and also a science teacher at Newtown High School. I am conducting research to examine how students get their ideas for their science fair projects. The study will consist of an interview with you, and possibly your parent, guardian, and/or mentor. I will also ask that you complete two short surveys that help me understand you better.

Interviews will take approximately 1 hour, and will take place either at your school or over the telephone, whichever is more convenient. Surveys can be completed either on paper or online. You may refuse to answer any question, and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time. If you do not wish to participate, it will not have any effect on your science fair participation or evaluation.

To protect your privacy, your name will not appear in this study and will be held in the strictest of confidence. No one besides my research team will have access to your replies. When the results of this research are published, it will be impossible to identify you or any other student.

If you are willing to participate, please sign the student portion of the consent form on the back of this sheet, and ask a parent or guardian to sign their portion. Please return the signed consent forms directly to me in the envelope provided. An identical copy of this letter has been included and is yours to keep. If you or your parent/guardian have any further questions about the study, please contact me at the email address or phone number below.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Frank LaBanca
www.labanca.net
(203) 947-2850

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
in cooperation with THE CONNECTICUT SCIENCE FAIR ASSOCIATION

“Impact of problem finding on the quality of authentic open-inquiry science research projects”
Frank LaBanca, Principal Investigator
(203) 947-2850, www.labanca.net

Student Consent

I have read the description of the research project and agree to participate. I am aware that the results will be used for research purposes only, that my identity will remain confidential, and that I can withdraw at any time.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Phone number: _____ email address: _____

Parent/Guardian Consent

I have read the description of the research project and agree to let my child participate. I am aware that the results will be used for research purposes only, that my child's identity will remain confidential, and that he/she can withdraw at any time.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Relation to student: _____ Phone number: _____ /

email address: _____