



Parents and mentors of science fair students:

I am a doctoral student at Western Connecticut State University and a science teacher at Newtown High School in Connecticut, currently conducting research examining how students get and develop their ideas for their science fair projects. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with your [RELATION], [NAME], who will be a subject in my study.

In order to have good trustworthiness and dependability in my study, I am looking to triangulate my data by interviewing those adults who have had an impact on [NAME]'s study. I am hoping to have the opportunity to conduct an interview with you to improve the quality of my findings.

Interviews will take approximately 30 minutes, and will take place over the telephone. You may refuse to answer any question, and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time.

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 individual.

If you are willing to participate, please sign 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 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 AND
SCIENCE SERVICE'S INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

“Impact of problem finding on the quality of authentic open-inquiry science research projects”

Frank LaBanca, Principal Investigator

(203) 947-2850, www.labanca.net

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: _____

Role: Parent Guardian Mentor to: _____