

Consent Form Characteristics:

1. Concise
(more likely to be read)
2. Vocabulary and grammar appropriate for the subject population
(more likely to be understood)
3. Includes:
 - a. Brief description as research
 - b. Duration of participation
 - c. Brief description of procedures distinguishing normal activities from research activities
 - d. Risks
 - e. Benefits to society
 - f. Extent of confidentiality
 - g. Voluntariness and withdrawal procedures
 - h. Contact information for researcher, faculty advisor, and Research and Integrity Office.
 - i. IRB/exemption approval reference ID

Characteristics that will entail a delayed review and approval:

1. A consent form that has the appearance of a contract with an implication that the subject is committing to participation. A consent form is an ethical requirement, but not a legal document.
2. A consent form worded from the viewpoint of the subject: e.g. "I will take part in an interview with the researcher where I will be asked questions..."
3. Over use of the word "understand" and its implications. For example, "I understand the risks associated with this research." How could a subject know that they understand and sign a document stating that they do? This is a legalistic approach similar to a liability waiver.
4. Long and redundant
5. A consent form that is coercive

Suggestion: use the templates available at:

http://www.units.miamioh.edu/compliance/hs02_01_Applications.html#hsAppConsent