

## **Declaration of Informed Consent**

**Project Title:** A Survey of Literature Used in ELA Classrooms in Alberta

### **Researcher**

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### **Purpose of the Research**

The purpose of this study is to follow up on a valuable originating study conducted in 1996 and revisited in 2006. The goal is to establish reliable data about the kinds of materials used in Grade 10 English Language Arts courses in the Greater Edmonton area.

### **Procedures**

Using an anonymized online questionnaire, we are asking teachers about the texts they teach in their Grade 10 English Language Arts courses and inviting their comments on their experiences using these texts. We also ask some broad background questions about the students in the class, to allow us to generalize about the kinds of texts used with specific kinds of classes.

### **Funding**

This research is entirely funded by MacEwan University. No outside funders are involved.

### **Potential Risks**

Participation in this study is strictly voluntary and your risk from taking part in this study is minimal. You can stop answering the survey at any point.

All identifiers, including IP addresses, are masked to the researchers. Submitted questionnaires will be retained on a secure server in Alberta, Canada, for at least five years. Findings will not identify individual teachers or schools in any way, and all information gathered will be completely anonymized. Findings will be published on the basis of region-wide trends, unrelated to any particular school, board, or district. If used in our discussion of the findings, teachers' written comments will be quoted anonymously.

For your greater understanding, we have included some definitions you may find helpful.

Confidentiality and anonymity are related but distinct concepts. **Confidentiality** is defined as “spoken or written in confidence”, while **anonymity** is defined as “of unknown name, or unknown authorship.” When we assure a participant of confidentiality, we mean that we will not disclose identifiable information about the participant in the reporting or dissemination of the research findings. When we assure a participant of anonymity, we mean that the participant’s identity will not be known to anyone, including ourselves as researchers. In this project your anonymity is protected, although the researchers will be able to identify the school from which you are responding.

### **Potential Benefits**

When the results of two earlier, related studies were compiled, analyzed, and discussed, participating teachers were keen to learn about the texts used by their colleagues. Many teachers used the findings as a way to refresh their teaching with new texts or to extend their teaching with new complementary materials. We expect the results of this study to have similar benefits.

### **Compensation**

You will not be compensated in any way for taking part in this survey.

### **Right to withdraw**

We want you to know and remember the following points.

- Your participation in this project is strictly voluntary, and you are free to answer only those questions you are comfortable with.
- You have the right to stop answering this questionnaire at any time. If you leave the questionnaire before clicking “Submit,” any information you have supplied will be scrubbed.

### **Follow up**

If you are interested in receiving updates about this research as we begin sharing our findings with colleagues and peers, , please contact Dr Vermeer at VermeerL (at) macewan.ca (telephone 780-633-3975).

### **Questions or Concerns**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr Vermeer at VermeerL (at) macewan.ca (telephone 780-633-3975).

**Questions or Concerns about Ethical Conduct**

This project has been approved on ethical grounds by the MacEwan University Research Ethics Board on **12 November 2020** [File No: 101858]. Any questions regarding your rights as a participant may be addressed to the Board at 780-497-4280 or at [REB@macewan.ca](mailto:REB@macewan.ca).

Clicking “I Agree” on the front page of the online survey represents your agreement with the following statement:

**I have read and understand the letter of invitation to participate in this study.**

This statement represents your consent to participate in the research project and your understanding of the context in which this consent applies. Once you have clicked “I Agree,” the questionnaire will begin.

**Thank you so much for taking part in our investigation!**