

**Consent to Participate in a Research Study**  
**Study of U-M Undergraduate Writing Development**

**Principal Investigator: Anne Ruggles Gere, Director, Sweetland Center for Writing**

The Sweetland Center for Writing invites you to participate in a multi-year research study of undergraduate student writing development at the University of Michigan. The goal of this study is to better understand students' growth as writers at the University over the course of their undergraduate education. The results of this study will be used to improve undergraduate writing instruction for future University of Michigan students.

**Description of subject involvement**

Students who are under the age of 18 are ineligible to participate in this study. If you are 18 or over and agree to participate, you will be asked to do the following:

- Complete a 20-30 minute online survey early the Fall 2011 semester.
- Electronically submit at least one sample of your academic writing each semester, beginning in Fall 2011 and ending with the semester in which you graduate.
- Complete a second 20-30 minute online survey at the end of the semester in which you graduate.
- Be willing to participate in an individual interview about your writing experiences at the University of Michigan. If you are selected to participate in this portion of the study, the interview will last no more than one hour.

**Benefits**

Participation in this study may give you opportunities to reflect on your development as a writer during your time at the University of Michigan.

**Risks and discomforts**

There are no risks associated with this study because the data collection is completely confidential and the topic is not sensitive.

**Compensation**

If you agree to participate in the study, you will be compensated for your time. The compensation for participation is as follows:

- \$15 Amazon gift card upon completion of the first survey in Fall 2011
- \$15 Amazon gift card per semester for electronically submitting at least one sample of your academic writing
- \$20 Amazon gift card upon completion of the second survey during the semester in which you graduate
- \$25 Amazon gift card upon completion of the interview, if you are selected to participate in this portion of the study

**Confidentiality**

We plan to publish the results of this study, but will not include any information that would identify you.

**Storage and future use of data**

To keep your information safe, the researchers will save all survey responses, writing samples, and interview sound files and transcripts on a secure University of Michigan computer server. The researchers will retain these data indefinitely. These data may be made available to other researchers for other studies following the completion of this research study, but they will not contain information that could identify you.

**Voluntary nature of the study**

Participating in this study is completely voluntary. There are no negative repercussions for deciding not to participate in this study. Even if you decide to participate now, you may change your mind and stop at any time. If you decide to withdraw early, a representative of the Sweetland Center for Writing will contact you to discuss whether you wish to withdraw your survey responses, writing samples, and/or any interview sound files and transcripts.

**Contact information**

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please contact Anne Ruggles Gere, Director of the Sweetland Center for Writing, at [argere@umich](mailto:argere@umich).

**Consent**

By clicking Yes below, you are agreeing to be in the study. Be sure that questions you have about the study have been answered and that you understand what you are being asked to do. You may contact the researcher if you think of a question later.

Do you consent to participate in this study?

- Yes
- No

If you have any additional questions about this study, please contact Anne Ruggles Gere at [argere@umich.edu](mailto:argere@umich.edu).