* **Message from TC IRB to Researchers:*****BLUE*** *text equals suggestions from TC IRB and can be freely edited out.* ***RED*** *text is tailored for your study.* ***BLACK*** *text is standard and must be kept in the final consent form copy.*
* ***IRB stamp placement consideration:*** *To ensure compatibility with IRB and external agency requirements (e.g., NYC DOE), please avoid placing critical text (such as contact info, version dates, or disclaimers) in the bottom 1.5 inches of the page, particularly the* ***lower-right corner****, where the official TC IRB approval stamp is placed. If footer text is present and obstructed by the IRB stamp, your consent form may be returned for revisions and re-stamping—delaying approval or submissions to external IRBs. PIs are encouraged to integrate key details (e.g., version date) within the document header or body rather than in footers. Reviewers will flag footer conflicts during pre-review to minimize downstream issues.*

**INFORMED CONSENT**

**Protocol Title**: Does Graduate Training or Experience Produce Better History Teachers?

Subtitle if needed: Focus Group Consent or Interview Consent

**Principal Researcher**: Dr. Sigmund Freud, MD, Teachers College   
212-222-2222, freud@research.edu

**INTRODUCTION** You are invited to participate in this research study called “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” You may qualify to take part in this research study because **(list your specific inclusion criteria**) you are over 18 years old, have taught for a minimum of 10 years and have graduate training in teaching history**. (If there are exclusionary criteria list them. If there is an issue about being in two studies concurrently include this sentence:** If you are presently participating in another study you can/cannot be part of this study**—otherwise delete this sentence)**. Approximately twenty-five people will participate in this study and it will take 2 hours of your time to complete over the course of two days.

The National History Teachers Foundation has provided funding for this study.

**WHY IS THIS STUDY BEING DONE? (Keep this simple and no more than two or three sentences.)** This study is being done to determine the differences between graduate education and work experience in preparing history teachers for their profession.

**WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO IF I AGREE TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY? (Describe the research procedures in chronological order and step-by-step. You can use bullet points, if appropriate, to distinguish details between study activities.)** If you decide to participate, the primary researcher or one of the research assistants will individually interview you, ask that you participate in a focus group session with your peers, and complete a survey.

During the individual interview you will be asked to discuss your graduate education experience and your experience as a classroom teacher**. (If there are any uncomfortable or personal questions regarding your study, you must mention them here.)** This interview will be audio-recorded. After the audio recording is written down (transcribed) the audio recording will be deleted. If you do not wish to be audio-recorded, you will still (or will not) be able to participate. The researcher will just take hand-notes. The interview will take approximately forty-five minutes. You will be given a pseudonym or false name (or de-identified code) **(choose either a pseudonym or de-identified code)** in order to keep your identity confidential.

You will then be asked to participate in a focus group run by the primary researcher where teachers like yourself will discuss their experiences in graduate school and in the classroom. This will not be audio-recorded but a research assistant will be taking notes **(or describe if it will be audio or video-recorded, and what will happen to the audio or video recording afterwards. For example, the audio (and/or video) recording will be deleted after it is transcribed (or analyzed))**. Everyone will be asked not to discuss what is being spoken about outside of the group but it is impossible to guarantee complete confidentiality. This focus group session will take about one hour.

Finally, you will be asked to fill out a survey about your future educational and professional plans. This will take about fifteen minutes.

**(Add where and when each procedure will take place.)**

All of these procedures will be done at Teachers College, room 345 at a time that is convenient to you.

**(Note: For individual interviews, you can specify that the interview will be conducted face-to-face, using an online platform like Zoom (or Skype), or over the phone (or a combination of either). If you conduct an individual interview remotely (Skype or phone) and want to audio (and/or video) record that interview, tell the participant when you plan to start and stop the audio recording. For example, “*This telephone interview will be audio-recorded. You can choose whether or not you would like to be audio-recorded. If you choose to be audio-recorded, the researcher will notify you when the audio-recorder is started and stopped. If you do not want to be audio-recorded, the researcher will take hand-notes*.”)**

**(Note: For focus group sessions, you cannot guarantee confidentiality. You might say something like, “*Your identity will be known to other focus group participants and the researcher(s) cannot guarantee that others in the group will respect the confidentiality of the group. As a researcher, I ask that you will keep all comments made during the focus group confidential and not discuss what happened during the focus group outside the meeting.*”)**

**(Note: If you are conducting an online survey, you may consider including attention checks within the survey questions. For example, “*During the survey, there will be periodic attention checks to ensure you are paying attention to the survey questions. If you do not pass these attention checks, you will not receive compensation*.”)**

**(Note: If you video-record a classroom, explain how students who are not participating can avoid being in the video. Explain who will set up the video recorder and how long the video recording will last.)**

**(Note: If you are taking subjects away from teaching, classroom activities, or other kinds of work, explain how you are minimizing this negative effect.)**

**(Note: If you are conducting a classroom study, explain what alternative activities are planned for students who do not want to be in the study. You may want to specify that you will defer to the classroom teacher or school administrator on proposing alternative activities.)**

**(Note: Asking your own students (or the parents of your students) to participate in your research is intrinsically coercive. Parents and students will always feel compelled to participate, in spite of your intentions and assurances, or they may perceive some intangible benefit to participation that does not exist. In order to gain approval to use your own students for research, you need to demonstrate to the IRB that there is no other practicable way to carry out the project. Working with students in another class or having a research assistant handle recruitment, informed consent, and data collection are both preferable to using your own students. Additionally, in your application you want to distinguish between “*typical classroom engagement*,” and “*study-related engagement*,” when working with your own students.)**

**(Note: If you use randomization in your study, remember it is considered the most powerful experimental design in clinical trials. The principal of justice requires that all subjects be fairly selected and that the benefits and burdens of research be distributed fairly. Researchers should convey sensitivity to participants, especially for participants in control conditions who may not receive the same experiences as those in the intervention condition. Researchers should offer an adequate justification or a compelling argument as to why another research methodology is not feasible or would not produce a desire outcome. Researchers may consider offering the intervention treatment to the control group at a later time, running the study twice, or rotating randomization.)**

**(State where and when each of the study activities is being carried out. Explain how the research does not impinge on classroom time, (i.e., that the procedures will be done at break times, after school, or lunchtimes) or explain what the arrangement is with the teacher, study site, or other individuals to make sure that the participant does not unfairly miss out on events or scheduled time (e.g., typical classroom lessons) as a result of participation in the study.)**

**WHAT POSSIBLE RISKS OR DISCOMFORTS CAN I EXPECT FROM TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY? (If there is more than minimal risk, be clear about the risks and don’t say it’s a minimal risk study.)** This is a minimal risk study, which means the harms or discomforts that you may experience are not greater than you would ordinarily encounter in daily life while taking routine physical or psychological examinations or tests. However, there are some risks to consider. You might feel embarrassed to discuss problems that you experienced in graduate school or while working in your school. You do not have to answer any questions or share anything you do not want to talk about. You can stop participating in the study at any time without penalty. You might feel concerned that things you say might get back to your supervisor. Your information will be kept confidential. **(If there is a genuine risk involving problems such as mental health issues, give the name and number of an agency the subject can go to in order to seek support. Do not make up risks that do not apply to the study. Boredom is not a risk.)**

**(Note: Consider these questions when gauging risks to study participants:**

* **What risks and benefits may result from the research? Do the benefits (*not necessarily direct benefits, but potential benefits to the field*) outweigh the risks?**
* **How are you minimizing potential risks?**
* **How is informed consent (or parental permission and assent) documented?**
* **What provisions are in place to protect the privacy of participants and to maintain confidentiality?**
* **What is the general demographic of the target population? Are they a vulnerable population? Does the current political or social climate impact this population and pose additional risk?**
* **Is the participant famous? Or in a position of recognizable authority (e.g., director of a major corporation)? Will the participant’s fame make protecting confidentiality challenging?**
* **Are the participants under 18 years old? Has the researcher adequately provided information to them in age-appropriate ways?**
* **How much information is revealed during a routine survey or interview? Is that information private or sensitive?**
* **Will asking a question about how someone is feeling need a referral for mental health services?**
* **Are there physical discomforts associated with this study? Has the researcher specified these details to the participant in a clear and understandable way?**
* **Does the participant speak a language other than English? Is the researcher qualified (or prepared) to offer translated information in the participant’s preferred language? Is the researcher familiar with cultural and social practices within the setting and among the population of interest? Will the researcher need to secure a translator? Is that translator trained in confidentiality and ethical practices?**
* **Can the participant read and write in the participant’s preferred language? If not, is the researcher prepared to offer alternative accommodations (e.g., verbal informed consent, parent permission, or assent documentation)?**
* **Where will the research take place? Does the researcher have site permission to conduct the study? Is this a safe and private location? Can the researcher ensure confidentiality at this location?**
* **Where and how is the research data stored? What is the researchers data security plan?**
* **What provisions are in place for monitoring the data collected (and storage) to ensure the safety of subjects?)**

The primary researcher is taking precautions to keep your information confidential and prevent anyone from discovering or guessing your identity, such as using a pseudonym **(or de-identified code—explain)** instead of your name and keeping all information on a password protected computer and locked in a file drawer.

**[If you plan to collect data in-person (either on- or off-campus), give information about inherent risks of in-person data collection:] Person-to-person exposure is the most frequent route of transmission for infectious viruses (e.g., flu, COVID-19) and occurs via direct inhalation of respiratory droplets during close contact. Simple preventative measures, (e.g., frequent hand washing, disinfecting the workspace) can help reduce disease transmission. (“For more information on requirements around in-person research, please review IRB’s** [**in person research webpage**](https://www.tc.columbia.edu/institutional-review-board/how-to-submit/guides--resources/in-person-research-requirements/)**”).**

**WHAT POSSIBLE BENEFITS CAN I EXPECT FROM TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?** There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. Participation may benefit the field of teacher education to better understand the best way to train history teachers. **(“*Overstated benefits*” is the most frequent comment researchers receive from IRB reviewers. Overstating research benefits can be coercive. In research involving learning and disabilities, or mental illness, overstating benefits can erode the vital distinction between research and treatment in the minds’ of potential subjects or their parents and guardians. When stating potential benefits, focus on concrete benefits that are independent of outcomes, accruing as part of interventions and data collection procedures. Alternatively, it is perfectly okay to state, “*No direct benefit*.”)**

**WILL I BE PAID FOR BEING IN THIS STUDY?** You will not be paid to participate. However, your transportation costs (or time and effort) will be covered. There are no costs to you for taking part in this study. **(Compensation for research participation is not considered a benefit. Research applicants will often state, “*No direct benefit*,” and still offer payment for participation. If you are listing compensation, be sure to specify the dollar amount (e.g., “*You will be paid $10 USD for your participation at the end of the study*).)**

**WHEN IS THE STUDY OVER? CAN I LEAVE THE STUDY BEFORE IT ENDS?** The study is over when you have completed the individual interview, focus group session, and filled out the survey. However, you can leave the study at any time even if you have not finished. You will still be paid for time and your transportation costs. **(If payment is prorated, explain it here. Specify, if participants will be paid for completing all (or some of) the study tasks. For example, *“If you leave the study early, or do not complete all study tasks, you will still be paid $10 USD for your participation*”.)**

**PROTECTION OF YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY** The primary researcher will keep all written materials locked in a desk drawer in a locked office. Any electronic or digital information (including audio (and video) recordings) will be stored on a computer that is password protected. What is on the audio recording will be written down and the audio recording will then be destroyed. There will be no record matching your real name with your pseudonym. **(If you are using de-identified codes, explain that the master list identifying the subject is kept locked and separate from the list of codes. Regulations require that data with children be kept for five years and three years for adults. Some grants may require data be kept for a longer period of time. Consult your grant administrator. Please note that anonymity and confidentiality are not interchangeable. They refer to data collection, not dissemination of data. If you meet the subject in person (or know the subject’s name), you cannot say in the informed consent form that the subject’s identity is anonymous.)**

For quality assurance, the study team, the study sponsor (grant agency), and/or members of the Teachers College Institutional Review Board (IRB) may review the data collected from you as part of this study. Otherwise, all information obtained from your participation in this study will be held strictly confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by U.S. or State law.

**HOW WILL THE RESULTS BE USED?** The results of this study will be published in journals and presented at academic conferences. Your identity will be removed from any data you provide before publication or use for educational purposes. Your name or any identifying information about you will not be published. This study is being conducted as part of the dissertation of the primary researcher.

**CONSENT FOR AUDIO AND OR VIDEO RECORDING** **(Choose either or both or delete section)** Audio recording (and/or video recording – **specify which one or both**) is part of this research study. You can choose whether to give permission to be recorded. If you decide that you don’t wish to be recorded, **you will still be able to participate** ***OR*** **you will not be able to participate** in this research study. **(Choose the sentence that applies to your research (i.e., will or will not be able to participate if the participant does not want to be recorded).)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_I give my consent to be recorded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_I **do not** consent to be recorded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

**(Make sure to give your participants enough space to sign their names. Also, make sure you keep signature lines together on the same page.)**

**WHO MAY VIEW MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY**

**(Choose the appropriate description below for your research)**

\_\_\_I consent to allow written, video and/or audio-recorded materials viewed at an educational setting or at a conference outside of Teachers College, Columbia University

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_I **do not** consent to allow written, video and/or audio-recorded materials viewed outside of Teachers College, Columbia University

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

**(Some researchers hire professional transcriptionists, to transcribe audio-recorded interviews. If this is true for you, make sure you include this detail in the informed consent and consider submitting a “*non-disclosure agreement for transcriptionist*” form with your protocol. This template can be found in Mentor/Documentation. If the transcription service has its own non-disclosure agreement, describe these details in your protocol submission to IRB.)**

**OPTIONAL CONSENT FOR FUTURE CONTACT**

**(If you wish to contact this subject for participation in other studies (*not related to this current study*) select the first option below. If you wish to follow-up with the subject related to this current study select the second option below. Delete this entire section if there is no chance that you might contact the subject in the future.)**

The primary researcher may wish to contact you in the future. Please initial below to indicate whether or not you give permission for future contact.

The researcher may contact me in the future for other research opportunities:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Initial Initial

The researcher may contact me in the future for information relating to this current study:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Initial Initial

**WHO CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS STUDY?**

**If you have any questions about taking part in this research study, you should contact the primary researcher, Dr. Sigmund Freud, at 212-222-2222 or at** [**sfreud@tc.edu**](mailto:sfreud@tc.edu) **or the research coordinator, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at 212-\_\_\_\_\_. You can also contact the faculty advisor, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_ at 212-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, you should contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) (the human research ethics committee) at 212-678-4105 or email [IRB@tc.edu](mailto:IRB@tc.edu) or you can write to the IRB at Teachers College, Columbia University, 525 W. 120th Street, New York, NY 10027, Box 151. The IRB is the committee that oversees human research protection for Teachers College, Columbia University.

**(The Participant’s Rights section is *not a separate document* from the informed consent form. It is all one document.)**

**PARTICIPANT’S RIGHTS**

* I have read the Informed Consent Form and have been offered the opportunity to discuss the form with the researcher.
* I have had ample opportunity to ask questions about the purposes, procedures, risks and benefits regarding this research study.
* I understand that my participation is voluntary. I may refuse to participate or withdraw participation at any time without penalty to future **(choose the applicable description)** medical care; employment; student status or grades; services that I would otherwise receive. **(If none of the descriptors fit then end the sentence after the word penalty.)**
* The researcher may withdraw me from the research at the researcher’s professional discretion. **(State under what conditions)**
* If, during the course of the study, significant new information that has been developed becomes available which may relate to my willingness to continue my participation, the researcher will provide this information to me.
* Any information derived from the research study that personally identifies me will not be voluntarily released or disclosed without my separate consent, except as specifically required by law.
* **(Choose the appropriate description)** Identifiers may be removed from the data. De-identified data may be used for future research studies, or distributed to another researcher for future research without additional informed consent from you (the research participant or the research participant’s representative). ***OR*** Your data will not be used in further research studies.
* I should receive a copy of the Informed Consent Form document.

**My signature means that I agree to participate in this study:**

**Print name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(Please make sure your final copy uses only one font type (in black text), and is saved without template text, editorial comments, or tracked changes. In its final form, this document should be free of typographical errors, orphaned signature lines, unnecessary white space, or other unsightly formatting issues.)**

**(Note: The Informed Consent Form should be written using an 8th grade reading level. You can use the Flesch Reading Ease test or Flesch Grade Level test to check your document. Microsoft Word can also display information about the reading level of a document, including the readability scores.)**