The purpose of consent procedures is to provide subjects with sufficient information so that they can decide whether or not they want to participate in a study. At minimum, all of the following types of information need to be provided during consent procedures. Similar types of information should be included if you are obtaining assent from individuals who have limited capacity to consent (i.e., children, developmentally disabled people, etc.). Please make sure that your consent (and assent) procedures include the following:

1) the amount of time the project will take

2) a brief description of the procedures (e.g., will fill out surveys, will watch films, will be interviewed, will run 1 mile, etc.); if these procedures entail some risk of physical or psychological distress (e.g., viewing porn, experiencing pain), that information should be explicitly stated.

3) an explanation of the risks and benefits of participation

4) a statement of if and how the subjects will be compensated. If participants' names will be released to other individuals and offices in the college as part of the compensation process (such as the office of the Dean of the College, the Vovis Center, and the Business Office), then this must be stated. In this case, include the following statement in your consent form: "As part of the compensation process, other individuals and offices at Knox College will be made aware of your participation in this study. Although they will be made aware of your participation in this study, they will not have access to your data collected during the course of the study."

5) a clear statement that the subject can skip any aspect of the procedures and withdraw at any time, with a clear statement of what will happen if s/he decides to do so

6) a description of whether the data will be anonymous, confidential, or neither; if it is confidential, include a description of how the data will be kept confidential; if participants' names will be used, consent must be specified for this; if the subject is being audio or video taped, include a description of what will happen to the tapes once the study is done; if issues like suicidal or homicidal tendencies or histories of abuse are being assessed in the study, include a clear statement regarding the limits of confidentiality

7) the opportunity to ask any questions before beginning the study

8) the contact information for the student, the professor, and the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research [irb@knox.edu), in case the subject has questions in the future.