

INFORMATION SHEET FOR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

EXAMINING FIRST VOTE: Learning about the Election in U.S. Government Classes

Examining First Vote is a research study conducted by Professor John Rogers from the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are a student in a 12th grade U.S. Government class that will be studying the election over the next few weeks.

Participation in this research study is voluntary. You can choose whether or not to participate in all or part of the study.

Why is this study being done?

This study examines the civic understandings of high school seniors enrolled in U.S. Government classes during the period of the general election campaign of November 2012. The purpose of the study is to provide social studies teachers with guidance about how to use future election to promote student learning about politics and political participation.

What does it mean to participate in this research study?

Professor John Rogers plans to collect three types of information from students in your class. None of this information will identify you or other students by name.

First, Professor Rogers wants to review classwork and homework that students produce during this unit. Throughout the unit, your teacher will collect your classwork and homework in a folder. At the end of the unit, your teacher will use a permanent marker to cross off student names from all classwork and homework before passing on the folders to Professor Rogers. In that way, student confidentiality will be protected.

Second, Professor Rogers, or one of his graduate students, will observe and take notes on some of your class discussions. These notes will not refer to you or any student by name—the notes will only describe what is going on in the class.

Third, Professor Rogers will ask you to complete a survey at the beginning and at the end of the unit. The survey includes multiple-choice questions about your understanding of topics related to government, politics, and civic participation. The survey will be confidential—it will not include student names. You can choose whether or not to participate in this study and you can choose to participate in only part of it. Participation in the study will not affect your grade in your government class.

For example, you can choose not to take the survey and not to share your written work with Professor Rogers. If you are not comfortable with having Professor Rogers or one of his graduate students write notes on what you say or do when they observe the classroom, your teacher will let them know and they will not refer to your words or actions.

If you would rather not participate in the study (or in one part of the study), please tell your teacher. You can inform your teacher orally, with a note, or by speaking to him or her at the end of class.

There are no known risks from participation in this study. The study aims to benefit future students by gathering information that can help social studies teachers develop more powerful lessons.

If you have any questions about the study or what it means to participate, you can contact Professor Rogers at 310-206-4620 or rogers@gseis.ucla.edu. If you wish to ask questions about your rights as a research participant or if you wish to voice any problems or concerns you may have about the study to someone other than the researchers, please call the Office of the Human Research Protection Program at (310) 825-7122 or write to Office of the Human Research Protection Program, UCLA, 11000 Kinross Avenue, Suite 102, Box 951694, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1694.