**7th Grade Research Assignment Consent Form**

Dear 7th Grade Parents,

This letter is to inform you of an important writing assignment in which your 7th grade student is asked to participate and to obtain your parental consent. Currently, the writing unit for the 7th grade class is research writing. In an effort to have students participate in an authentic research experience, students are asked to create a website on a geopolitical topic. Be assured that student websites **will NOT contain any personal information regarding your child and that student websites will be CLOSELY MONITORED by me**, through my own personal teacher Weebly account. Furthermore, **there will be strict guidelines** as to the content that students will be allowed to incorporate into their websites. This project **will also unfold in teacher-guided and supervised stages**.

The theme of this writing unit is “geopolitical issues.” Some examples of the type of geopolitical issues students might be researching could include or are similar to the following:

* Population crisis in India/China
* Scarcity of clean water in developing African nations
* North Korea missile crisis
* Disease epidemics in a certain country
* Melting of the polar ice caps
* Endangered species in a specific country
* Deforestation in Brazil or Australia
* The lingering effects of the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl

Before students begin researching these topics, be assured that I will first approve their topics for appropriateness.

Further details on the specifics of this assignment can also be found on my teacher website: [www.mstharayil.weebly.com](http://www.mstharayil.weebly.com), under the “Ongoing Assignments” section of the “7th Grade Writing” page.

If you do not want your student participating in this assignment or have reservations about them creating a website or researching a particular topic, **your child will participate in an alternative assignment of equal magnitude and scope**, or may be required to research another teacher-approved topic.

***On the attached page, please indicate your preference for your child’s participation in this project, sign and date the form, and return it with your student.***

As with all assignments, this assignment aims to help students meet critical Common Core Standards and Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLEs). Below are the standards and SLEs students are expected to achieve by the end of this assignment:

**Common Core Standards Addressed:**

* [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/7/2/) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
  + [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2a](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/7/2/a/) Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
  + [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2b](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/7/2/b/) Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
  + [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2c](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/7/2/c/) Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
  + [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2d](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/7/2/d/) Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
  + [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2e](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/7/2/e/) Establish and maintain a formal style.
  + [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2f](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/7/2/f/) Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

**Schoolwide Learning Expectations Addressed**

**A.  Active Christians in their Catholic faith**

* **Educate themselves and others about justice, equity, and peace**
* **Celebrate cultural diversity**
* **Engage in respectful dialogue with people who have different perspectives**

**B.  College and Career Ready in the 21st Century**

* **Become *self-directed learners* who formulate meaningful questions and effectively seek out and use human, print, and digital resources to address those questions**
* ***Collaborate with others* in a respectful and productive way to complete tasks**
* ***Construct viable arguments* by using logical reasoning and citing precise, relevant evidence**
* ***Process, analyze, interpret, and evaluate* quantitative and qualitative information while maintaining an open mind**
* **Demonstrate the ability to *use multiple strategies to solve problems***
* ***Read, see, and listen* carefully to improve general knowledge and discipline-specific expertise**
* **Demonstrate *command of written and spoken standard English* and acquire and use a wide-ranging daily and academic vocabulary**
* ***Comprehend and critique complex literary and informational texts* across a wide range of types and disciplines**
* ***Use productivity tools* to collaborate with others, enhance learning, and *generate creative works***
* **Practice *ethical and responsible use of technology***

Thank you for your involvement in your child’s learning and progress at school.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sneha Tharayil

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**YES**). I hereby permit my child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to

(Student’s Name)

participate in the 7th grade assignment and consent to him/her creating a Weebly website under Ms. Tharayil’s account.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**NO)** I prefer that my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, participates in an alternative

(Student’s Name)

research assignment and do not consent to him/her creating a Weebly website under Ms. Tharayil’s account.

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Parent’s Signature Dates