

Dear California elementary teacher:

I'm writing to request your participation in a research study on children's creativity in dance-making that will be used toward my doctoral dissertation at the University of San Francisco, School of Education. The purpose of my dissertation research is to understand teachers' beliefs about creativity in dance and how they recognize creativity in students' dance-making processes and products.

This study asks elementary-level classroom teachers to respond to 15 questions about their beliefs about creativity in dance and to rate 9 short video clips of original student choreography. It is expected that the questionnaire and ratings will take 10-15 minutes to complete. If you agree to participate you will receive an electronic link to the questionnaire in October sent by Heather Stockton to keep your responses confidential from me. Ms. Stockton will compile all responses, identified only by participant identification number, and give them to me for analysis. There will be no association between your name and your responses. Any participation in this study is voluntary.

The potential benefit of this study will be improved understanding of teachers' perceptions of creativity so that teacher education programs can appropriately support arts education. As one who has worked in dance education for several decades, I can attest that the field needs empirical studies to improve efforts to nurture creativity.

If you are willing to participate in this study, please read the attached consent form that describes that explains your rights as a research participant. If you voluntarily consent to participation, please send a reply email hstockton@lunadanceinstitute.org indicating that you have read and agree to participate in the research study as described in the Consent Form.

Sincerely,



Patricia Reedy
Director Creativity & Pedagogy, Luna Dance Institute
Doctoral Candidate, University of San Francisco School of Education

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

You have been asked to participate in a research study conducted by Patricia Reedy, a graduate student in the Department of Learning and Instruction at the University of San Francisco. The faculty supervisor for this study is Dr. Patricia Busk, a professor in the same department.

WHAT THE STUDY IS ABOUT: The purpose of this research study is to understand teachers' beliefs about creativity in dance and to what extent those beliefs are associated with their ratings of children's creative dance products.

WHAT YOU ARE ASKED TO DO: You are asked to respond to 15 items in a questionnaire about your beliefs about creativity in dance. The first 14 items ask for your response to statements on a scale of one to five: 1 (*highly disagree*), 2 (*disagree*), 3 (*neither agree nor disagree*), 4 (*agree*), or 5 (*highly agree*). Item #15 is an open-response item. You are also asked to rate 9 video clips of students ages 10-15 performing original works they created as part of their creative dance program at Luna Dance Institute.

DURATION AND LOCATION OF THE STUDY: The questionnaire, video links and rating sheets will be sent to you in early October and may be completed at your convenience between October 7, 2019 and November 1, 2019. I expect your responses to take 15 minutes or less.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS: I do not anticipate any risks or discomfort from participating in this research, beyond the time spent completing the questionnaire. Participation is voluntary. If you wish, you may choose to withdraw your consent at any time during the study without penalty.

BENEFITS: There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. Possible benefits to others include an improved understanding of teachers' perceptions of creativity in dance that might inform the field of arts education.

PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY: Your anonymity will be maintained throughout data collection, data analysis, and reporting of the study. All identifying information will be removed from the questionnaire and email exchanges transmitting the documents will be deleted from Ms. Stockton's computer. Upon completion of the project, all questionnaires will be housed on an external hard drive and stored in a locked and secure location at the Luna Dance Institute's offices in Berkeley, California.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please ask any questions you have before signing this consent form. If you have questions, please contact me at preedy@lunadanceinstitute.org or call me at 510.883.1118. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant in this study, you may contact the University of San Francisco Institutional Review Board at IRBPHS@usfca.edu.

I have read the above information and agree to participate in this research project. Any questions I have asked have been answered. I will receive a copy of this consent form should I request it.

Teacher Signature

Date

Email address if sent by US mail
