

LETTER OF INVITATION: Students

February 1, 2010

Title of Study: Comparison of film and story techniques to elicit emotion in a laboratory setting.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Barbra Zupan, Ph.D., Department of Applied Linguistics, Brock University.

I, Barbra Zupan, Ph.D., from the Department of Applied Linguistics, Brock University, invite you to assist with a research project entitled, Comparison of film and story techniques to elicit emotion in a laboratory setting. Dr. Duncan Babbage from Massey University in New Zealand will also be consulting on this project.

The purpose of this research project is to create stimuli portraying visual and auditory expressions of emotion using a set of film clips and novel excerpts. This stimuli will then be used in future studies within my laboratory. There are two phases in this project and I invite you to participate in one or the other. In the first phase, participants will be asked to portray 10 sentences; 2 in each of the following emotion categories: Happy, Sad, Angry, Fearful, and Neutral. Participants will be presented with 10 film clips and 10 novel excerpts. Following each presentation, you will then be asked to say a sentence while being video and audio taped and then indicate the intensity of the emotion they portrayed. A still photograph will also be taken following each portrayal. The film clips and novel excerpts are intended to make you experience a range of emotions including happy, sad, angry and fearful. The expected duration of participation required is 90 minutes and you will be compensated \$25. In the second phase, you will view auditory-only, dynamic visual-only and static photographs of emotion created from the recordings in phase one. You will be asked to indicate what emotion is being portrayed using a 5-response key pad (happy, sad, angry, fearful or neutral) and also to rate the intensity of the emotion portrayed. The expected duration of participation required is two hours and you will be compensated \$20 and given breaks as needed.

If you agree to participate in this research, you will be asked to attend one appointment. This appointment will take approximately 90 minutes if you choose to participate in phase one and 2 hours if you choose to participate in phase 2. If you become fatigued, we can complete the activities across two sessions if necessary. Every effort will be made to arrange a convenient testing time. Participation in this research may provide the basis for course credit if needed or you may be compensated \$25 for your participation in phase one or \$20 for your participation in phase two. If you would like more information prior to making a decision, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information provided at the end of this letter. Although this research will not directly benefit you, your participation will assist in the development of new elicitation methods for nonverbal expressions of emotion within a laboratory setting and stimuli that can be used in future studies of affect recognition.

If you have any pertinent questions about your/your students' rights as a research participant, please contact the Brock University Research Ethics Officer (905 688-5550 ext 3035, reb@brocku.ca)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you;

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This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through Brock University's Research Ethics Board [08-310].