

Informed Consent Release

Date: _____

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian,

The _____ class at _____ school has the opportunity to participate in a class exercise in which an important technique in biotechnology will be used to analyze the students' DNA. The technique the students will be using is called the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). It is a method by which a particular piece of DNA can be amplified many million-fold. PCR has a number of applications in the scientific community, including uses in forensics, diagnostics, parentage testing, and evolutionary studies. It is used by forensic laboratories for the identification of possible suspects involved with a crime. It is used for the diagnosis of different genetic diseases. It is routinely used in most molecular biology laboratories for the cloning and characterization of specific genes.

In this laboratory protocol, students will be isolating DNA from their own cheek cells. They will then apply the PCR technique to amplify a particular segment of their DNA. This segment is not known to be associated with any genetic disease and variation between individuals in this region is in no way an indicator of health or genetic fitness. The results of this particular lab exercise are for teaching purposes only and will NOT be used for any diagnostic or identification purposes. Your student's privacy will be protected. The student's name will not be linked to his/her DNA and the results of the lab exercise will remain anonymous.

Participation is voluntary. By signing this permission form, you are allowing your student to participate in this exciting learning experience. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me at _____.

Sincerely,

Print Student's Name

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date