**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE**

**FORM 1: INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPLICATION**

**Instructions:** In MS Word, highlight the shaded underlined box and replace with your text. Double-click checkboxes to check/uncheck. Provide signatures by typing in your name where appropriate. See submission instructions at the end of this form.

**If this application is to extend IRB approval of a study already reviewed and accepted by IRB then please fill out the entire form including the “Revision” sections and submit this application.**

**If this application is for a new protocol that has not been previously approved by IRB then please disregard the “Revision” sections.**

**Is this application to extend IRB approval of a previously reviewed and accepted protocol?**

Yes No

**If yes, what is the Previous IRB Application Number:**

**Principal Investigator/Study Director Name**:

**Status**: Faculty  Staff  Student

**Department**: **College/Research Center**:

**Telephone**:

**Email**:

**Supervising Faculty Information** (if student)

**Name**:

**Campus Address**:

**Telephone**: **Email**:

**Funding:** External  Internal Unfunded

**Funding source** (if applicable): N/A

**Title of Study**:

**Purpose of Study**: The purpose of this study is to better understand ………………, subjects in this study will be asked to …………….. Subjects will be asked whether they would or would not allow …………………. Examining the subject’s decisions will provide insight into ……………………..

**State the Hypotheses, Research Question, or Practice Question**: It is hypothesized that the number of subjects who choose to ………………… It is hypothesized that the least number of subjects will …………………….

**Description of Subjects**: Subjects (*N* = 200) will be recruited from Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk). Subjects will be at least 18 years of age. Subjects will be given small monetary compensation totaling $1.00 USD in exchange for participation in the study.

(Please identify the anticipated sample size and where these subjects will be recruited from. Summarize the subject’s characteristics such as age, sex, race/ethnicity, and health status. If a special population (e.g. children or prisoner) will be included, provide a brief justification, and include form 6 if subjects are under 18 years of age or form 7 if a prisoner. *Please note when completing the IRB application forms the use of the term “subjects” is required by federal regulation. However, guidelines provided by other organizations may prefer the term “participant”, you may use the term participant in supportive materials needed for your study*.

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to Descriptions of Subjects here:

(Identify any changes in the anticipated sample size or if there will be a change in where these subjects will be recruited from. If the addition of any special population (e.g. children or prisoner) will be included in this study, provide a brief justification below, and include these changes in form 6 if subjects are under 18 years of age or form 7 if a prisoner. Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**How Subjects Will Be Selected and Recruited**: Subjects from MTurk will be

selected as a convenience sample. MTurk is a crowdsourcing website utilized to recruit voluntary community members to complete tasks such as research participation. Recruitment and signup will occur on the Amazon Mechanical Turk website, and participating community members will receive a small monetary reward of $1.00 USD for completion of the study. Participant recruitment will occur continuously until the total intended sample size (*N* = 200) is obtained.

RECRUITMENT MESSAGE FOR MTURK: *You are invited to participate in a research study about a criminal trial. This study is designed to help us to better understand how people make decisions in criminal cases. You will be asked to read a short vignette about a criminal case and imagine yourself in the role of a prosecuting attorney. After reading the vignette, you will be asked to make judgements based on what you have read. The entire session will last no more than 30 minutes. You may earn $1.00 USD for your participation in this study. All information will be kept confidential and anonymous. The primary investigators XXX and XXX from The University of Alabama in Huntsville. You may contact the investigators by email if you have any questions at…………. (PI name), ……….. or . (Dr. name… the faculty supervisor). Please be advised that this experiment is only open for those who are 18 years of age.*

**You must provide the following:**

* Summarize methods used to select subjects, selection process such as random sampling method, snowballing, convenience sampling etc. and how you will get access the population.
* Please identify the institution, clinic, or site from which subjects are to be recruited. Describe your procedures for identifying and recruiting subjects. Who will give you access to the population.
* How will subjects be identified and by whom?
* How will initial contact be made with prospective subjects and by whom (include a script if applicable)?
* Include a recruitment script that you will use to recruit subjects.
* Please describe all recruitment materials such as flyers, email invitations, student subject pool posting, social media postings, etc.
* Please include a copy of all recruitment materials in your IRB application, such as flyers, email invitations, student subject pool posting, social media postings, etc.
* ALL OF THESE MATERIALS MUST BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE IRB PRIOR TO USE.

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions related to how subjects will be Selected or Recruited here:

* (Summarize any changes made to how subjects will be selected and recruited. Carefully consider each of the bullet points listed above and if any changes have made from the previously approved protocol in relation to this section explain these changes in sufficient detail. Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**Background and qualifications of the principal investigator and additional personnel directly involved in the research:** The principal investigators…………., are

graduate students from The University of Alabama in Huntsville studying experimental ….. under the observation of faculty member, Dr. ... PI has cumulative experience of over 1 years working in the ….. Lab under Dr. ….. PI has completed CITI training for Responsible Conduct of Research for All Researchers Human Subjects Researchers, Export Compliance, and Conflicts of Interest. XX has previous experience working in the Psychology and Law Lab under Dr. XXX for 6 months. XXX has completed CITI training for Responsible Conduct in Research, Human Subjects Researchers, Export Compliance, and Conflicts of Interest. The experimenters understand the proper treatment of human subjects and the value of anonymity and confidentiality when working with data.

(Please briefly provide background information on the principal investigator (research background, human subject testing certification, CITI training, etc.) as well as all other researchers involved in the study in any capacity. This information may be attached as separate sheet as needed. Also, include information pertaining to the connection between the principal investigator and recruitment sites.)

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are **revisions since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to the qualifications of the principal investigator and additional personnel directly involved in the research here:

(Provide a brief summary in any changes in the qualifications of the principal investigator as well as all other researchers involved in the study in any capacity. If there have been any additions to the research staff (including undergraduate and graduate assistants) please include documentation of their qualifications (research background, human subject testing certification, CITI training, etc.). If new recruitment or testing sites have been included in this new protocol include information pertaining to the connection between the principal investigator and recruitment sites. Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**Description of Procedure**: The experiment will be a 2 (Evidence: Strong, Weak) x 3 (JI Testimony: Not Present, Truth, Lying) between-subjects factorial design. The no JI Testimony conditions will be control conditions.

Subjects will be able to sign up for this study via MTurk. This study will be completed individually online and presented via Qualtrics, the same software on which the survey has been created. Subjects will first read the consent form and click either “I agree to participate” or “I do not agree to participate” to give their consent (SEE APPENDIX B). Subjects will then be informed that they are asked to assume the role of a prosecutor who is working on a high-profile murder case. They will then be provided with the standards of the prosecution function defined by the American Bar Association and asked to imagine themselves in the position of a prosecutor to the best of their ability (SEE APPENDIX E). To avoid reactivity in subjects that would make the data collection invalid, we request a waiver of the requirement to inform the participant of the true purpose of the study prior to participation (SEE APPENDIX D) because the full disclosure of the study will occur at debriefing. After providing consent, subjects will then be randomly assigned to one of six conditions. In conditions in which the JI’s testimony is present, the JI will testify that the defendant confessed the crime to him while the two were in prison together. The evidence described will either be strong (DNA evidence) or weak (circumstantial evidence). The JI’s testimony will either match the evidence in the case (truthful) or not match the evidence in the case (lying). After reading the information about the murder case for which subjects are asked to assume the role of prosecutor, subjects will be asked to complete two comprehension check questions about what they have read to ensure subjects’ attention and understanding. Once subjects have finished reading the vignette, they will complete a post-summary questionnaire including whether or not they would prosecute the defendant and whether or not they would allow the JI to testify (if the JI was present). Subjects will also be asked to answer basic demographic questions. Upon reaching the end of the study, subjects will be provided with a full debriefing and explanation of the study. Once acknowledging understanding of the content in the debrief, subjects will be given the opportunity to withdraw their consent if needed, notified that they have completed participation, and instructed to close the window of the survey.

* Summarize the process you will ask subjects to follow.
* Describe in detail what will subjects be asked to do.
* Provide a copy of the research script if applicable.
* Briefly describe the setting in which the research will be conducted.

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to Procedures here:

(Summarize any changes to the process you will ask subjects to follow. Are there any changes to what subjects will be asked to do? Provide a copy of the research script with any edits if applicable. Briefly describe any changes in the setting in which the research will be conducted.Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**Instrumentation** (if applicable): Subjects will sign up for the study using the MTurk website. After subjects provide informed consent, they will be asked to read a vignette including one of six conditions (SEE APPENDIX E). Apart from the difference in the JI’s testimony (not present, truthful, or lying), and strength of evidence against the defendant (DNA or circumstantial), the content of each condition will be the same. After reading each paragraph of the vignette, subjects will be asked to answer questions about what they read to serve as a comprehension check (SEE APPENDIX H). Subjects will also be asked to answer study questions in which they must indicate whether they would prosecute the defendant (“Yes” or “No”), whether they would allow the JI to testify against the defendant (if presented with the JI; “Yes” or “No”), as well as ratings about different aspects of perceptions of the defendant and JI (if presented with the JI; SEE APPENDIX F). Subjects will then be asked to provide demographic information about themselves via a demographic questionnaire (SEE APPENDIX G). At the end of the study, subjects will read over the debriefing form (SEE APPENDIX C). Microsoft Excel will be used to organize data and make graphs. SPSS will be used to analyze statistical data. The survey will be presented to subjects through Qualtrics. All forms and materials are attached to this application.

* Describe all materials such as questionnaires, surveys, cognitive tests, any and all designed materials or measures, equipment, etc. to be used in the study,
* Provide a brief explanation for their use.
* Attach a copy of these materials with your application

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to Instruments here:

(Describe all materials such as questionnaires, surveys, cognitive tests, any and all designed materials or measures, equipment, etc. that has been added that is to be used in the study, and provide a brief explanation for their use. Attach a copy of these materials with your application. Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**Duration of Study**

a. **Total amount of time with each subject**: 30 minutes

b. **Time to complete study**: 1 year

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions here:

1. **Revision to the** **Total amount of time with each subject**:
2. **Time to complete study**:

**Benefit(s) of the Study**: To our knowledge, there are no direct benefits to subjects. This study may result in benefits to society as a whole because it investigates the influence of JI testimony and evidence strength on prosecutor decision-making. While subjects themselves are not prosecuting attorneys in the real world, a better understanding of why someone in the position of a prosecuting attorney would allow a JI to testify is necessary considering that false JI testimony is a leading cause of wrongful convictions.

(Summarize *any* potential benefits to include physical, psychological, social, economic, and/or legal. These benefits are to be included in consent form as well. Describe potential benefits/significance of the study to science or society. ) Benefits do not include incentives and compensation for participation in the study, see below.

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to Benefits here:Please disregard if this is a first-time application.

**Incentives and compensation:** Subjects recruited through MTurk will be rewarded a small monetary compensation of $1.00 USD. Community subjects will not be compensated if they withdraw prior to the completion of the study.

* Summarize the incentives for participation in the research for example gaining an insight into research, etc.
* Summarize the compensation that will be received for participating in the research (for example research credit hours for students, monetary incentives for non-students, etc.).

\***Financial** **Compensation options include:**

1. A PI may choose to offer an incentive to all subjects equally, but, if so, the compensation must be reasonable and not so high as to be coercive.
2. A PI may choose to not offer any incentives for participating in the study.
3. If the PI does want to offer an incentive but cannot offer an incentive to subject, this option may be more suitable:

* A PI will require subjects to answer a qualifying question to be eligible to be entered into a drawing, and if the subjects answers the question correctly, their names would be entered into a drawing for an incentive. (*Please note the subjects may select not to enter into the drawing and would not be penalized for opting out of this opportunity for an incentive. Also note, the qualifying question can be any question of the PI's choosing)*

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to Incentives and Compensation here:

(Summarize any changes in the incentives for participation in the research. If there are any changes in compensation please summarize this below. Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**Possible Risks to Subject(s) and Precautions Taken to Avoid Risks**: There is minimal risk

involved in this study. Possible risks may include staring at a screen for an extended period of time, but no longer than the daily use of phones and computers. Another possible risk includes minimal discomfort while reading the vignette, as it does mention crime such as murder. However, the details of the crime that are included in the vignette are within the realm of details that may be found within media and news outlets. To avoid any risks, participation will be voluntary and subjects will not be penalized for choosing not to participate in the study. Additionally, subjects will be fully debriefed about the purpose of the study at the end of the session. Subjects will be provided with contact information for the primary investigators, faculty advisor, and IRB should they have any questions regarding their rights as research subjects, general questions, concerns, or complaints.

* Summarize *any* potential risks to include physical, psychological, social, economic, and/or legal.
* These risks are to be included in consent form as well.

For Biological studies only: the study must be submitted and approved by the Biosafety Officer at The University Environmental Health and Safety Committee before submission to the IRB. Call 256-824-6053 or Email: <https://www.uah.edu/oehs/contact>

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to possible risks and precautions here:

(summarize any additional potential risks including physical, psychological, social, economic, and/or legal. These additional risks are to be included in a revised consent form. Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**How You Will Ensure Confidentiality/Anonymity**: Subjects will be designated by experiment number to ensure confidentiality. These numbers will only be available to research investigators directly involved with this study. Although MTurk is connected to public profiles through Amazon.com, MTurk is solely used for the purpose of recruitment. As such, it is not possible to connect participant responses within Qualtrics to the MTurk system, and it is not possible to connect participant responses within Qualtrics with MTurk worker IDs. Consent forms will be kept for 3 years and then destroyed. The data from each session will only be released to those individuals who are directly involved in the study and only using participant identification numbers.

* Summarize provisions to protect privacy interests and the method for securely collecting, storing the data.
* Summarize the disposal of research data.
* Describe how confidentiality will be assured?

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to Confidentiality and Anonymity here:

(Summarize any changes in the provisions to protect privacy interests or the method for securely collecting, storing, and possible disposal of research data. Are there any changes in how confidentiality will be assured? Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**Procedures for Attaining Informed Consent or Assent**: Subjects will be provided a consent form when they volunteer to participate in the study. Subjects will read the consent form and click “I agree to participate” if they agree to participate, or subjects are given the option to select “I do not agree to participate” without penalty. We request a waiver of written documentation of informed consent (SEE APPENDIX A). Subjects will also be told that they are free to withdraw from the study at any point in time without penalty to minimize coercion. Subjects who do not wish to participate, or who decide to withdraw from the study, may close out of the survey window with no penalty and with no risk of any personal information being identifiable. For subjects that agree to participate in the study, the study will begin immediately after consent is provided. This study will not involve minors under 18 years of age, and this study will not involve multiple sessions.

Describe the procedures to be used to obtain consent, the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained, the timing of obtainment:

* Will there be a delay between obtaining consent and actual participation in the research?
* Which research personnel will obtain consent (please provide personnel qualifications as requested above)?
* What steps will be taken to minimize the possibility of coercion and/or undue influence?
* If the study involves minors (under the age of 18) describe the procedure to obtain assent and how it will be documented. Also include how parental permission for the participation of minors will be obtained and documented. See **Form 10** Youth Assent Form and Youth/Guardian Consent Form.
* Describe any and all procedures for reobtaining informed consent/assent (for example, in studies involving multiple sessions and how it will be documented.)

**FOR REVISIONS TO APPROVED STUDIES ONLY:**

Complete the section below **ONLY** if there are revisions **since the last IRB approval** or exemption. Describe any changes/revisions to Obtaining Informed Consent of Assent here:

* (Summarize any changes made to the procedure for attaining informed consent or assent. Carefully consider each of the bullet points listed above and if any changes have made from the previously approved protocol in relation to this section explain these changes in sufficient detail. Please disregard if this is a first-time application.)

**Documentation of Informed Consent by Subject(s) Attached?** Yes  No

(Attach consent form. Any waiver of consent justification needs to follow U.S. Health and Human Service justification see links below for details.)

**Documentation of all study personnel qualification(s) as stated above attached?**

Yes  No

**Are copies of all materials as stated above attached?** Yes  No

[**http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/consentckls.html**](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/consentckls.html)**,** [**http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists/decisioncharts.html#c11**](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists/decisioncharts.html#c11)**, or** [**http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists/decisioncharts.html#c10**](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists/decisioncharts.html#c10)**.)**

**INVESTIGATOR ASSURANCE STATEMENT & SIGNATURE**

By my signature as Principal Investigator, I acknowledge my responsibilities for this Human Subjects Study and affirm that:

* I have reviewed and will comply with the Belmont Report: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.html>,
* I have reviewed and will comply with informed consent regulations: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/consent/index.html>
* I will report (and will instruct other key personnel to report) adverse or unanticipated problems to chair of the IRB, 256-824-6100 or [irb@uah.edu](mailto:irb@uah.edu) : <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/advevntguid.html>
* I have reviewed and acknowledge the Investigator Responsibilities: <http://answers.hhs.gov/ohrp/categories/1567>.

* I will not modify the protocol unless (a) the IRB has approved changes prior to implementation or (b) it is necessary to eliminate an apparent, immediate hazard to a subject(s);
* I will verify that all personnel are licensed/credentialed for the procedures they will be performing, if applicable;
* I will apply for continuing review of the protocol at least annually unless directed by the IRB to apply more frequently;
* I understand I may be audited;
* I will conduct the protocol as represented here and in compliance with IRB determinations and all applicable local, state, and federal law and regulations; and will provide the IRB with all information necessary to review the protocol; and will refrain from protocol activities until receipt of formal IRB approval.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Federal Guidelines require assurances that there are no conflicts of interest in research projects that could affect the welfare of human subjects. If this study presents a potential conflict of interest, additional information will need to be provided to the IRB. Examples of potential conflicts of interest in research involving human subjects may include, but are not limited to:

• A researcher or family member participates in research on a technology, process or product owned by a business in which the faculty member holds a

financial interest.

• A researcher or family member participates in research on a technology, process or product developed by that researcher.

• A researcher or family member has a financial or other business interest in an entity which is supplying funding, materials, products, or equipment for the current research project.

• A research or family member serves on the Board of Directors of a business which is supplying funding, materials, products, or equipment for the current research project.

• A researcher receives consulting income from an entity that is funding the current research project.

Do any members of the study team, or any of their family members, have a financial or other business interest in the source(s) of funding, materials, or equipment

related to this research study?

Yes  No

If you answered yes, contact the IRB Chair.

“Family Members” is defined to include spouse or any dependent. “Dependent” is any person, regardless of his or her legal residence or domicile, who receives 50 percent or more of his or her support from the Investigator or his or her spouse or who resided with the Investigator for more than 180 days during the reporting period.

**Signature**: **Date:**

**Signature:** **Date:**

**Supervising Faculty Signature** (if student): **Date:**

This signature acknowledges I am the Principal Investigator and/or Supervising Faculty.

**Qualifications of Involved Persons**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Researcher** | **CITI Record ID Numbers** | **Responsibilities** |
|  | Responsible Conduct of  Research for All Researchers Human Subjects Researchers Export Compliance  Conflicts of Interest | Primary Investigator; monitor study, collect data, manage research assistants, and email participants when needed |
|  | Responsible Conduct in  Research Human Subjects Researchers  Export  Compliance and Conflicts of Interest | Primary investigator; monitor study, collect data, manage research assistants, and email participants when needed |
| Dr. | Human Subjects Researchers | Faculty Advisor |

**APPENDIX A**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA in HUNTSVILLE**

**FORM 11: Request for Waiver of Written Documentation of Informed Consent**

**(1) The only record linking the subject and the research would be the consent document and the principal risk would be potential harm resulting from a breach of confidentiality; subjects must be asked whether they want documentation linking themselves to the project or not (and the participants’ wishes will prevail);**

The study will be conducted via Qualtrics and the subjects will read through a consent form online and have an option to click either “I agree to participate” if they agree to participate, or subjects are given the option to select “I do not agree to participate” without penalty. The study will be fully online and subjects will not be able to give written consent, which is why we are requesting to waive the written documentation of informed consent.

**APPENDIX B**

**Consent For Participation**

**Key Information:**  
This form seeks your consent for research and participation is voluntary. The purpose of this study is to examine how people in the role of a prosecuting attorney make decisions about a criminal case. This survey will take approximately 30 minutes. The risks involved are no more than what you experience in everyday life, however, you may remember an experience in your life that could cause distress. There are no known benefits to you for completing this study. The primary investigators are XXX and XXX, from The University of Alabama in Huntsville’s Psychology department.

**WHY AM I BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH?**  
You and about 200 others are being invited to take part in a research study about psychology and the law, specifically decisions of someone in the role of a prosecutor in a criminal case.  
  
**WHO IS DOING THE STUDY?**  
The person in charge of this study is xxxx of the Department of xxxx at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. There may be other people on the research team assisting at different times during the study.  
  
**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?**  
By doing this study, we hope to learn more about how people serving as prosecuting lawyers make decisions in criminal trials.  
  
**WHERE IS THE STUDY GOING TO TAKE PLACE AND HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?**  
The research procedures will be completed wherever you can log on to a computer, because the study is completed online. The total amount of time you will be asked to volunteer for this study will be approximately 30 minutes.  
  
**WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?**  
During the study you will be asked to do one or more of the following: (1) read, hear, and/or watch information about a randomly selected court case and/or other legal issues; (2) answer questions about the case and/or legal issues; (3) answer questions about experiences you and others have had in life (e.g., contact with elders); (4) answer questions about your beliefs and behavior with regard to specific aspects of your life (e.g., religion, television watching behavior), and (5) provide demographic information (e.g., race, age, sex, married, children). You should also be aware that the information and questions that are presented to you may refer to crimes of a sexual nature or crimes involving physical abuse.

**ARE THERE REASONS WHY I SHOULD NOT TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?**  
There are no known reasons why you should not participate in this study. However, individuals under the age of 18 should not participate in this study.

**WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS?**

To the best of our knowledge, the things you will be doing have no more risk of harm than you would experience in everyday life. It is possible, however, that you may remember an experience in your life that will cause you some distress. If this occurs, you should feel free to discontinue your participation. Also, if you feel any distress you may want to contact a trained professional at Comprehensive Health Care (859-233-0444), or The University of Alabama in Huntsville Counseling Center (256-824-6203).  
  
**WILL I BENEFIT FROM TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?**  
Through participating in this study, you will have the opportunity to gain knowledge about the experimental research process. Additionally, your participation will contribute to scientific literature as a whole and allow the community to learn and benefit from the research’s findings.  
  
**IF I DON’T WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY, ARE THERE OTHER CHOICES?**  
If you do not want to take part in the study, there are other survey options.  
  
**WHAT WILL IT COST ME TO PARTICIPATE?**  
There are no costs associated with taking part in this study.  
  
**WHAT WILL I RECEIVE FOR TAKING PART IN THE STUDY?**  
You will receive $1.00 for participating in this study.  
  
**WHO WILL SEE THE INFORMATION I GIVE?**  
Your information will be combined with information from other people taking part in the study. When we write about the study to share it with other researchers, we will write about the combined information we have gathered. You will not be personally identified in these written materials. We may publish the results of this study; however, we will keep your name and other identifying information private. We will make every effort to prevent anyone who is not on the research team from knowing that you gave us information, or what that information is. However, we may have to show information which identifies you to people who need to be sure we have done the research correctly; these would be people from such organizations as The University of Alabama in Huntsville. Please be aware, while we make every effort to safeguard your data once received from the online survey/data gathering company, given the nature of online surveys, as with anything involving the Internet, we can never guarantee the confidentiality of the data while still on the survey/data gathering company’s servers, or while en route to either them or us. It is also possible the raw data collected for research purposes may be used for marketing or reporting purposes by the survey/data gathering company after the research is concluded, depending on the company’s Terms of Service and Privacy policies.

**CAN MY TAKING PART IN THE STUDY END EARLY?**  
If you decide to take part in the study, you still have the right to later decide at any time that you no longer want to continue, and you will still receive full credit for taking part in the study. No one will think badly of you or treat you differently if you decide not to take part in this study. The individuals conducting the study may need to take you off of the study. They may do this if you are not able to follow the directions they give you, or if they find that your being in the study is more risk than benefit to you.  
  
**WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?**  
Before you decide whether to accept this invitation to take part in the study, please ask any questions that might come to mind now. Later, if you have questions about the study, you can contact the investigators, ….. or ….. at [.,,,,,](mailto:lag0017@uah.edu). You may also contact the faculty supervisor, Dr….., at………… or at ………..If you have any questions about your rights as a research volunteer, or if this study has led you to feel any concerns in regard to your participation, please contact the IRB Chair, Dr. Ann Bianchi, at 245-824-2465 or at irb@uah.edu. You may print, or email kls0006@uah.edu, for a copy of this form if you would like.

Do you agree to participate?

* I agree to participate.
* I do not agree to participate.

(If consent is given, should be redirected to the first content page of the study.)

**APPENDIX C**

**Debriefing Form**

Thank you for participating in our study. The primary purpose of this study was to investigate how the strength of evidence in a case, as well as whether a jailhouse informant’s testimony matches or does not match this evidence, effects decisions to prosecute a defendant and/or allow the jailhouse informant to testify.

In each condition, we altered whether the evidence was strong (DNA evidence) or weak (circumstantial) and whether the cellmate’s testimony matched the evidence (was truthful), did not match the evidence (was a lie), or was not present. We will use your response on the survey to better understand information that the decisions of prosecutors, specifically in cases in which a jailhouse informant may be present. The demographic information will be used to give researchers a better idea of the age range, proportion of the sex, racial demographics, and political beliefs of the people who have participated in this study. All of this information will be kept completely anonymous and cannot be linked back to you as an individual.

We did not reveal the entire purpose of our experiment to you at the beginning. This is because when people know exactly what a researcher is studying, they may change their behavior, which would make responses unusable for drawing conclusions about natural human decision-making. For this reason, we ask that you please not discuss this study with other individuals who might participate in our study at any point in the next year. We hope you understand why we did not reveal everything to you up front and we thank you for your corporation.

If participating in this study has led you to feel any discomfort, feel free to contact the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) at 1-800-950-6264, or you can email them via [info@nami.org](mailto:info@nami.org)

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please feel free to ask the primary researchers: …… or ….. You may also contact the faculty advisor, Dr. ……. If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant, please feel free to contact the Office of the IRB (IRB) at 256-824-6101 or email Dr. Ann Bianchi at [irb@uah.edu](mailto:irb@uah.edu).

* I understand
* \*I do not understand.
* \*If you are troubled by the fact that we concealed the true purpose of this study, you

may withdraw your data from our study. This will have no effect on the incentives

you were offered for completing this study. If you would like your data to be excluded

from our study, please select this option. \*Excludes participant data

**APPENDIX D – Form 8**

**Request to Waive Informed Consent**

**Instructions:** In MS Word, highlight the shaded underlined box and replace with your text.

Double-click checkboxes to check/uncheck.

**If you need to waive the requirement for informed consent for reasons other than**

**exemption, please check the condition that applies to you, and provide a brief explanation**

**justifying your choice. (If you are providing informed consent, you may skip this section.)**

The research is (a) conducted by or approved by state or local government officials with

the purpose of studying and evaluation public benefit or service programs, procedures

for obtaining benefits or services under those programs, possible changes in, or

alternatives to those programs or procedures, possible changes in those programs, or

possible changes in levels of pay for benefits under those services; and (b) the research

could not be carried out without the waiver of consent or alteration of consent

requirements.

Research involves no more than minimal risk to subject and could not be carried out

without the waiver of consent. In this case, waiver of consent cannot aversely affect the

rights or welfare of subjects, and subjects should be provided with additional pertinent

information after participation.

**Justification**

In this study, it is necessary to withhold specific information from subjects. We are interested in how the truthfulness of a jailhouse informant’s testimony and the strength of evidence against a defendant influences subject’s decision to theoretically use the jailhouse informant in trial. If the subjects know that we are interested in these variables in particular, they may respond to questions with that information in mind rather than giving their natural responses. This could affect the application of our findings to natural settings and hinder the purpose of the study. Immediately after completion of the session, subjects will be debriefed regarding the true focus of the study and will have the option to select that they wish to exclude their data from analysis. The research involves no more than minimal risk to the subjects, and the waiver of consent is necessary for the purpose of our research question.

**APPENDIX E**

**INSTRUCTIONS AND CONDITIONS**

We want you to assume the role of a prosecutor who is working a high-profile murder case. A prosecutor is a government official responsible for bringing defendants in criminal cases to justice.

The American Bar Association sets standards for the prosecution function.

* The prosecutor’s office should exercise sound discretion and independent judgement in the performance of the prosecution function.
* The primary duty of the prosecutor is to seek justice within the bounds of the law, not merely to convict.
* The prosecutor should seek to protect the innocent and convict the guilty, consider the interests of victims and witnesses, and respect the constitutional and legal rights of all persons, including suspects and defendants.
* The prosecutor should know and abide by the standards of professional conduct as expressed in applicable law and ethical codes.

On the next page, you will be asked to imagine yourself in a situation similar to what real prosecutors may experience. Please do your best to imagine yourself in this situation so that you can answer questions about what you would do.

*[Truth/Strong Condition]*

You are the lead prosecuting attorney in your County. You have been preparing a 1st Degree Murder case for trial. The defendant, Charles Wilson, is currently in custody awaiting the pending trial. As the prosecutor, you are responsible for proving Mr. Wilson's guilt to a jury. The detectives working the case have informed you that Mr. Wilson was charged because they have DNA evidence against him. You examine all of the information about the case in preparation for court.

While preparing for trial, you receive a letter from Mr. Wilson's cellmate, Seth Rogers. Mr. Rogers is in jail for tax evasion. Rogers writes in the letter that Wilson has described in detail how he committed the murders. Rogers is willing to trade his testimony in exchange for an undisclosed benefit. You compare the information provided by Mr. Rogers to the details of the case provided to you by detectives. The information Rogers stated he received from Mr. Wilson matches the fact pattern in the case.

*[Truth/Weak Condition]*

You are the lead prosecuting attorney in your County. You have been preparing a 1st Degree Murder case for trial. The defendant, Charles Wilson, is currently in custody awaiting the pending trial. As the prosecutor, you are responsible for proving Mr. Wilson's guilt to a jury. The detectives working the case have informed you that Mr. Wilson was charged because he was observed at the scene of the crime shortly before the murder occurred. You examine all of the information about the case in preparation for court.

While preparing for trial, you receive a letter from Mr. Wilson's cellmate, Seth Rogers. Mr. Rogers is in jail for tax evasion. Rogers writes in the letter that Wilson has described in detail how he committed the murders. Rogers is willing to trade his testimony in exchange for an undisclosed benefit. You compare the information provided by Mr. Rogers to the details of the case provided to you by detectives. The information Rogers stated he received from Mr. Wilson matches the fact pattern in the case.

*[Lying/Strong Condition]*

You are the lead prosecuting attorney in your County. You have been preparing a 1st Degree Murder case for trial. The defendant, Charles Wilson, is currently in custody awaiting the pending trial. As the prosecutor, you are responsible for proving Mr. Wilson's guilt to a jury. The detectives working the case have informed you that Mr. Wilson was charged because they have DNA evidence against him. You examine all of the information about the case in preparation for court.

While preparing for trial, you receive a letter from Mr. Wilson's cellmate, Seth Rogers. Mr. Rogers is in jail for tax evasion. Rogers writes in the letter that Wilson has described in detail how he committed the murders. Rogers is willing to trade his testimony in exchange for an undisclosed benefit. You compare the information provided by Mr. Rogers to the details of the case provided to you by detectives. The information Rogers stated he received from Mr. Wilson does not match the evidence in the case.

*[Lying/Weak Condition]*

You are the lead prosecuting attorney in your County. You have been preparing a 1st Degree Murder case for trial. The defendant, Charles Wilson, is currently in custody awaiting the pending trial. As the prosecutor, you are responsible for proving Mr. Wilson's guilt to a jury. The detectives working the case have informed you that Mr. Wilson was charged because he was observed at the scene of the crime shortly before the murder occurred. You examine all of the information about the case in preparation for court.

While preparing for trial, you receive a letter from Mr. Wilson's cellmate, Seth Rogers. Mr. Rogers is in jail for tax evasion. Rogers writes in the letter that Wilson has described in detail how he committed the murders. Rogers is willing to trade his testimony in exchange for an undisclosed benefit. You compare the information provided by Mr. Rogers to the details of the case provided to you by detectives. The information Rogers stated he received from Mr. Wilson does not match the evidence in the case.

*[No JI/Strong Condition]*

You are the lead prosecuting attorney in your County. You have been preparing a 1st Degree Murder case for trial. The defendant, Charles Wilson, is currently in custody awaiting the pending trial. As the prosecutor, you are responsible for proving Mr. Wilson's guilt to a jury. The detectives working the case have informed you that Mr. Wilson was charged because they have DNA evidence against him. You examine all of the information about the case in preparation for court.

*[No JI/Weak Condition]*

You are the lead prosecuting attorney in your County. You have been preparing a 1st Degree Murder case for trial. The defendant, Charles Wilson, is currently in custody awaiting the pending trial. As the prosecutor, you are responsible for proving Mr. Wilson's guilt to a jury. The detectives working the case have informed you that Mr. Wilson was charged because he was observed at the scene of the crime shortly before the murder occurred. You examine all of the information about the case in preparation for court.

**APPENDIX F**

**Study Questions**

1. Based on the information provided, would you prosecute the defendant?

\_\_ Yes

\_\_ No

1. How guilty is the defendant, Charles Wilson?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. Were you approached by the defendant’s cellmate, Seth Rogers?

\_\_ No

\_\_ Yes

*\*\*\*If ‘Yes’, then subjects will then answer questions about the JI. If no, subjects will be redirected to demographics questions.*

**JI QUESTIONS**

1. How honest was the cellmate?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. How credible was the cellmate?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. How interested in serving justice was the cellmate?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. How interested in serving self-interest was the cellmate?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. As the prosecutor, would you allow the cellmate to testify against the defendant?

\_\_ Yes

\_\_ No

1. Please explain your decision to allow or not allow the cellmate to testify against Mr. Wilson.

\_\_\_

Based on your decision to allow or not allow the cellmate to testify against the defendant, answer the following questions.

1. How much did the reason Mr. Wilson was charged with the murder influence your decision?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. How fair is your decision to the murder victim?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10

1. How fair is your decision to the defendant?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10

1. How ethical was your decision to allow or not allow the cellmate to testify against the defendant?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10

1. How does your decision effect Mr. Wilson’s chances of being found guilty of the murder?

Not at all Completely

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10

**APPENDIX G**

**Demographics Questionnaire**

1. What is your sex?

\_\_\_ Male

\_\_\_ Female

1. How old are you?

\_\_\_

1. Are you a U.S. citizen?

\_\_ Yes

\_\_ No

1. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? (Check all that apply)

\_\_\_ White

\_\_\_ Black or African American

\_\_\_ American Indian or Alaskan Native

\_\_\_ Asian

\_\_\_ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

\_\_\_ Other

1. When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as:

\_\_ Very Liberal

\_\_ Liberal

\_\_ Slightly Liberal

\_\_ Moderate

\_\_ Slightly Conservative

\_\_ Conservative

\_\_ Very Conservative

1. Have you ever served time in prison before?

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ No

**APPENDIX H**

**Comprehension Check Questions**

1. Are you assuming the role of a prosecutor on a murder case?

\_\_ Yes

\_\_ No

1. Why was Mr. Wilson charged with the murder? *[Weak Conditions]*

\_\_ He was found with the murder weapon.

\_\_ He was observed at the crime scene.

\_\_ He had blood on his clothes.

1. What type of evidence do you have against Mr. Wilson? *[Strong Conditions]*

\_\_ Fingerprint Evidence

\_\_ DNA Evidence

\_\_ Hair fiber Evidence

1. How does the information Mr. Rogers stated he received from Mr. Wilson compare to the evidence in the case? *[JI present conditions]*

\_\_ Mr. Rogers statement matches the fact pattern in the case.

\_\_ Mr. Rogers statement does not match the fact pattern in the case.

\_\_ Mr. Rogers statement was not compared to the case evidence.

\*\*\*If subjects answer Question 1 incorrectly, they will see the following message:

**WRONG ANSWER!**

Your response to the last question was **INCORRECT**. Please make sure you read carefully so that you can answer ALL questions correctly. Please continue.