



Description of the Center for the Study of Adult Literacy

The Center for the Study of Adult Literacy is funded to Georgia State University by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. It is dedicated to understanding and facilitating the reading development of adults who read between the 3rd and the 8th grade levels.

One of the projects that the Center is currently focusing on is an investigation of a wide array of reading, motivation and cognition assessments to clarify the appropriateness of commonly used tests and to understand the underlying reading related strengths and weaknesses of this population. Results of our findings will help inform curriculum and assessments for adults who read at the third through eighth grade levels.

Daphne Greenberg of Georgia State University is the Principal Investigator of this Center. She has decades of experience working with adult literacy students, testing, teaching, and conducting research with this population. Before any of her staff or graduate students work with adult literacy students, they undergo many hours of training, including adult literacy sensitivity training. She works with each adult literacy program to customize how students can be recruited, where testing will occur, and when it will occur. Students who are involved with testing often enjoy the different types of activities they are exposed to, and feel pride in terms of knowing that they are helping researchers help the adult literacy field.



Adult learners, who express an interest in learning about the study, are given an informed consent form which is read out loud to them. This consent form specifically describes the following:

- a. Duration of testing (4-5 hours) over 2-3 days (typically 2 hours per session).
- b. Testing is done one-on-one and is confidential. Their names are not included on any assessment.
- c. Each test starts out with easy items, and becomes progressively difficult- but stops when test items become too difficult.
- d. Adult learners can skip or stop any test at any point w/o providing a rationale for why they want to skip or stop.
- e. Adult learners are paid 10.00 for each hour of testing.

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