THE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION LETTER

Investigating Instructional Approaches for Teaching Flow in Writing

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This information letter describes a research study, what you may expect if you decide to take part and important information to help you make your decision. Please read this form carefully.

The study staff will explain this study to you. Please ask questions about anything that is not clear before you agree to participate or at any time. You may take this information sheet home to think about and discuss with family or friends.

- Being in this study is voluntary – it is your choice.
- If you join this study, you can change your mind and stop at any time.
- If you choose not to take part, your employment experience will not change in any way
- There are risks from participating and you should understand what these mean to you.

Introduction: You are being asked to take part in this study because you are teaching an introductory writing course at Nazareth College, St. John Fisher College, or SUNY Geneseo.

This study is being conducted by Deborah Rossen-Knill from the University of Rochester's Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program; co-investigators Katherine Schaefer, Whitney Gegg-Harrison, Matthew Bayne from the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program; and co-investigator Dev Crasta from the Department of Psychiatry (formerly Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program).

Purpose of Study: The purpose of this study is to compare two different approaches to teaching students to revise for paragraph flow (cohesion and coherence) with each other and with the range of current approaches being used in composition classrooms.

Description of Study Procedures: The study team will assign instructors to either the treatment or control group through a randomized computer algorithm. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to:

Before the instructional unit begins:

Treatment group instructors:

- Attend a 2.5 hour training session, during which you will complete a pre-survey, review a schedule of activities, and learn about the study team's instructional materials.
- Attend one-hour individual or small group meeting (depending on schedules) to share and discuss integration of study method into course materials.
- Participate in a one-hour individual or group meeting right before implementation to practice method and answer questions.

Control group instructors: Attend a ≤1 hour training session, review the schedule of activities, and complete a pre-survey.

During the instructional unit:

- Distribute the information letter to students and ask a student to collect demographic forms in a sealed envelope for return to the study team.
- Provide instruction and instructional materials (either your own or those supplied by the study team, depending on whether you are part of a treatment or control group) to the students, including a pre-and post-survey.
- Collect and provide pre- and post-reflections, drafts, and ungraded final paper from the unit and provide to the study team via designated local administrator.
- Complete a 10-15 minute post-experience survey

After completing the semester:

- Complete a 30 min post-experience interview (treatment group only)

Number of subjects: We estimate that approximately 60 instructors from three study sites will take part in this study. At your institution, up to 30 instructors will take part.

Duration of the Study: Your participation in the study will last for the duration of one semester, with the possibility that the final exit interview will take place at the beginning of the subsequent semester.

Risks of participation: As you will be providing personal information (email, street address, and name) for the communication and payment process, there is a risk of a loss of privacy. To minimize that risk, your contact information and your questionnaire and interview data will be

stored separately on password-protected folders on Box.com (for electronic files) or in locked cabinets or offices (for hard-copy materials) and will only be linked by random subject ID numbers to protect your privacy during the course of the study. To further minimize that risk, we will delete all contact information you provided after the study has been completed. Access to all data will be strictly restricted to project staff.

Benefits of participation: You might not benefit from being in this research study. The potential benefit to you from being in this study might be that you will have the opportunity to learn new instructional materials.

Costs: There will be no cost to you to participate in this study.

Payments: We anticipate that the instructional unit and exit interviews will be completed in approximately 4 - 6 weeks. Payment will be in the form of a single check mailed approximately 4 - 6 weeks after the study period. Check amount will reflect the study activities completed. Payment for any single activity is not contingent on the other activities (with the exception of the completion bonus). Specific payments will be according to the following breakdown:

Treatment group instructors will receive:	
Training workshop:	$50
Course material meeting:	$25
Pre-implementation check-in	$25
Provide materials:	$50
Complete surveys and exit interview:	$50
Completion bonus (items 1 - 5 above):	$50
Control group instructors will receive:	$50

Confidentiality of Records: The University of Rochester makes every effort to keep the information collected from you private. In order to do so, we will keep your materials in a locked cabinet **or a locked** office or (if they are electronic) in a password-protected web server. Only the study team will have access to these materials. Sometimes, however, researchers need to share information that may identify you with people that work for the University or regulators. If this does happen we will take precautions to protect the information you have provided. Results of the research may be presented at meetings or in publications, but your name will not be used.

Contact Persons: For more information or questions about this research you may call Deborah Rossen-Knill at 585-273-3583.

Please contact the University of Rochester Research Subjects Review Board at 265 Crittenden Blvd., CU 420628, Rochester, NY 14642, Telephone (585) 276-0005 or (877) 449-4441 for the following reasons:

- You wish to talk to someone other than the research staff about your rights as a research subject;
- To voice concerns about the research;
- To provide input concerning the research process;
- In the event the study staff could not be reached.