

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Study Title: How an eBook impacts faculty perceptions of the use of VoiceThread: An action research study

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You are invited to be part of a research study. The researcher is a doctoral learner at Capella University in the School of Education. The information in this form is provided to help you decide if you want to participate. The form describes what you will do during the study and the risks and benefits of the study.

If you have any questions or do not understand something in this form, you should ask the researcher. Do not participate in the study unless the researcher has answered your questions and you decide that you want to be part of this study.

WHAT IS THIS STUDY ABOUT?

The purpose of this action research study to contribute to examining the potential that eBooks used as a faculty support resources have for impacting faculty perceptions of the use of web 2.0 tools.

In recent years, easy to use web 2.0 tools have made quite an impact on society and formalized education. They hold potential for transforming the traditional pedagogical model employed in higher education, yet many educators still have mixed perceptions about using them in their teaching. Simultaneously, colleges and universities are challenged by budget cuts and shifting faculty demographics to find ways to meet the growing demand to train faculty to integrate new tools into pedagogical contexts.

The researcher wants to discover:

- 1) If there is a significant difference in faculty perceptions about the use of VoiceThread between faculty who examine VoiceThread in an eBook approach and faculty who examine VoiceThread through webinars.
- 2) In what ways does the use of an eBook as a faculty support impact faculty perceptions about the use of VoiceThread?

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE IN THIS STUDY?

About 55 participants will be in this study.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?

To be eligible to participate in this study, you must:

- Be a full-time or part-time higher education faculty member in the United States and
- Have any type of VoiceThread account (Free, individual Higher Ed, Department, or Site License).*

All participants must be over the age of 18.

*While a VoiceThread account is required, you do not need to be actively using VoiceThread in your teaching to participate in this study.

If you do not meet the description above, you are not able to be in the study.

WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS STUDY?

The researcher is not receiving funds to conduct this study.

WILL IT COST ANYTHING TO BE IN THIS STUDY?

You do not have to pay to be in the study.

HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THE STUDY?

The study will last four weeks and will be complete asynchronously and online. You will spend about 15 minutes in Week 1, 2 hours in Week 2, 2 hours in Week 3, and 15 minutes in Week 4.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THIS STUDY?

If you decide to be in this study and if you sign this form (by clicking "**I AGREE**," on the final page you will participate in phases I, II, and III and may volunteer to participate in Phase IV. The entire study will be completed online.

- **Phase I: Complete Online Pre-Survey**
 - This phase will take about 15 minutes of your time.
 - After 52 participants agree to participate in this study, you will receive an email with a link to the online "pre-survey."

For the pre-survey, you will provide personal information about yourself including age, gender, occupational status (part-time or full-time faculty), and level of teaching experience. You will also indicate your level of agreement to 20 statements that will examine your perceptions of VoiceThread.

- **Phase II: Engage in online VoiceThread training experience (eBook or online videos).**
 - This phase will require about 4 hours of time, over a period of two weeks. It may be completed at your own pace and at times that are convenient for you.
 - Participants will be randomly divided into two groups. One group will read an eBook and the other group will view online videos of VoiceThread webinar archives, both of which are designed for a higher ed faculty audience to learn to apply VoiceThread in a pedagogical context.
 - You will select a fictitious name that you will use during Phase 2 (and Phase 4, which is optional).
 - You will create a free account using your fictitious name with Bonfyre.com and join a private Bonfyre social network that has been established by the researcher for your participant group. [Click here to read Bonfyre's Terms of Service.](#)
 - As you engage with either the eBook or the webinars during Phase II, you will share regular, brief, self-reflective journal-like updates in the social network group reflecting on your learning experiences (this may be done via a mobile app on an iPhone or Android device or via a regular web browser).
 - Participants who read the eBook will also be required to create a free account at RedShelf.com, the distributor of the eBook. [Click here to read RedShelf's Terms of Service.](#)

- **Phase III: Complete Post-Survey**
 - This phase will require about 15 minutes of your time.
 - Complete an online "post-survey" in which you indicate your level of agreement to the same 20 statements about your perceptions of VoiceThread.
 - At the end of the "post-survey" you will have the option to volunteer to participate in Phase IV. If you choose not to participate in Phase IV, you are finished with the study.

- **Phase IV (Voluntary): Semi-Structured Phone Interviews**
 - This phase will about 1 hour of time per participant (scheduling plus interview).
 - Those who volunteer to participate in the interviews complete an additional online consent form after completing the "post-survey."
 - The interviews will be scheduled online by the researcher using participant's fictitious names (self-selected in Phase II).
 - Interviews will be held over the phone, will be recorded by the researcher, and will last no more than 30 minutes.
 - Participants will respond to questions that will inquire about their learning experiences with the eBook or webinars.

WILL BEING IN THIS STUDY HELP ME?

Being in this study will not help you. Information from this study might help researchers help others in the future.

ARE THERE RISKS TO ME IF I AM IN THIS STUDY?

No study is completely risk-free. However, we don't anticipate that you will be harmed or distressed during this study. You may stop being in the study at any time if you become uncomfortable. You should be aware, however, that there is a small possibility that responses could be viewed by unauthorized parties (e.g. computer hackers because your responses are being entered and stored on a web server)

Logging into any online account like Bonfyre or Redshelf comes with the risk of exposing one's account information to other users who may access your account if you do not sign out at the end of your session. This risk is increased if you use your online accounts from public computers. To minimize this risk, sign out of your account to terminate a session.

WILL I GET PAID?

You will not receive anything for being in the study.

DO I HAVE TO BE IN THIS STUDY?

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You can decide not to be in the study and you can change your mind about being in the study at any time. There will be no penalty to you. If you want to stop being in the study, tell the researcher.

WHO WILL USE AND SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT MY BEING IN THIS STUDY?

Any information you provide in this study that could identify you such as your name, age, or other personal information will be kept confidential. Participants will complete the two online surveys anonymously. The online journaling contributions to Bonfyre will be made with a fictitious identity. The same fictitious identity will be used throughout the (optional) phone interviews. The only time you will need to enter your first and last name will be to create your RedShelf account to gain access to the eBook (if you are selected as a participant to read the eBook). There will be no data collected in this study that will be tied to your personal identity. In any written reports or publications, no one will be able to identify you.

The researcher will keep the information you provide in a password-protected computer in her home office and only the researcher, researcher's supervisor, and dissertation committee will have access to the study data. Additionally, Capella University's IRB, the Research Compliance Committee (RCC), or its designees may review your research records.

- Even if you leave the study early, the researcher may still be able to use your data. For example, if you participate in the pre-survey but you do not participate in the post-survey, your data would be included in the group total for the pre-survey. Since surveys will be completed anonymously, there is no way to extract a participant's data after it has been submitted.

Limits of Privacy (Confidentiality)

Generally speaking, the researcher can assure you that she will keep everything you tell her or do for the study private. Yet there are times where the researcher cannot keep things private (confidential). The researcher cannot keep things private (confidential) when:

- The researcher finds out that a child or vulnerable adult has been abused
- The researcher finds out that that a person plans to hurt him or herself, such as commit suicide,
- The researcher finds out that a person plans to hurt someone else,

There are laws that require many professionals to take action if they think a person might harm themselves or another, or if a child or adult is being abused. In addition, there are guidelines that researchers must follow to make sure all people are treated with respect and kept safe. In most states, there is a government agency that must be told if someone is being abused or plans to hurt themselves or another person. Please ask any questions you may have about this issue before agreeing to be in the study. It is important that you do not feel betrayed if it turns out that the researcher cannot keep some things private.

WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT THIS STUDY?

You can ask questions about the study at any time. You can call the researcher at any time if you have any concerns or complaints. You should call the researcher at the phone number listed on page 1 of this form if you have questions about the study procedures, study costs (if any), study payment (if any), or if you get hurt or sick during the study.

Capella University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) has been established to protect the rights and welfare of human research participants. Please contact us at 1-888-227-3552, extension 6313, for any of the following reasons:

- You have questions about your rights as a research participant.
- You wish to discuss problems or concerns.

- You have suggestions to improve the participant experience.
- You do not feel comfortable talking with the researcher.

You may contact the IRB without giving us your name. We may need to reveal information you provide in order to follow up if you report a problem or concern.

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN THIS STUDY?

By clicking the link below you agree to the following statement:

I have read this form, and I have been able to ask questions about this study. I voluntarily agree to be in this study. I agree to allow the use and sharing of my study-related records as described above.

I have not given up any of my legal rights as a research participant. I will print a copy of this consent information for my records.

CLICK [‘I AGREE’](#) TO SIGN UP OR ‘I DISAGREE’ TO EXIT