**Sample Consent Form**

*NOTE: Feel free to use any of the following language in your consent form, replacing language in each section to fit your study.*

*NOTE2: In blue, you will find alternative language or helpful notes.*

**Informed Consent Form**

**Juror Decision Making in an Armed Robbery Case** (Title of Study)

You are invited to participate in this research study about how jurors make decisions. The following information is provided in order to help you to make an informed decision about whether or not to participate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

This research is being conducted by Jennifer Groscup, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Scripps College (If you are a student, please state this & explain why you are doing your project (e.g., as part of your senior thesis, for a particular class, etc.)). You are qualified to participate in this research because you are jury eligible (18 years of age or over, valid ID, a US citizen, and never convicted of a felony). (Specify qualification for your study, such as “you are at least 18 years of age”) The purpose of this research study is to identify how people make decisions when they are asked to determine if a defendant should be held responsible for a crime. In particular, we are interested in how jurors use and evaluate expert testimony in criminal trials.

Participation in this study will require approximately three hours of your time. You will be asked to watch a video depicting a criminal trial that includes several witnesses and the testimony of an expert, and to answer some questions about the trial in the packet provided to you. You will then deliberate with your fellow participants as jurors in the case, and we will videotape you for research purposes only. The risks of this research are expected to be minimal. The information in the criminal trial is similar to what you might see on the news or in a legal or crime drama on TV. However, the criminal trial contains a description of an armed robbery. This could create some minimal discomfort for you. If you find that the information makes you uncomfortable or feel that it will make you uncomfortable, you are free to decide not to participate or to withdraw at any time. In the event of any problems resulting from participation in the study, you can seek counseling through a service to search for counselors provided by the American Psychological Association by visiting http://locator.apa.org.

The benefits to your participation in this research include a $40 payment, that you may find the learning experience enjoyable, and the process may help you to better understand the criminal justice process and the way in which jury decisions are made. It is possible that you may experience no direct non-monetary benefit from your participation. However, the information gained from this study may help us better understand the factors that individuals use in their decision-making about crimes and about expert testimony. (please do not over-sell benefits to your participants. Be honest, even if there are few anticipated direct benefits to particpants)

The information obtained in this study may be published in scientific journals or presented at scientific meetings (If you will be publicly presenting your thesis or study results, please explain how you could be presenting your work. For seniors, don’t forget that you will be submitting your thesis to the library electronically and it will “published” through scholarship@Claremont, in addition to any public presentations you may do about your thesis), but your identity will be kept strictly confidential. Results will be kept in a secure location that is only accessible to the investigators, and your identity will be kept separate from your responses to the questions you will be asked. You will not be asked to put your name on any of the responses you give during the research. Your responses to the questions we ask you will be anonymous.

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. You are free to decide not to participate in this study or to withdraw at any time without adversely affecting your relationship with the investigators or with Scripps College. Your decision not to participate or to discontinue participation at any time during the study will not result in any loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

You may ask questions concerning the research before agreeing to participate or during the experiment. If you have any questions regarding this research, you may contact Professor Groscup at jgroscup@scrippscollege.edu, at (909) 607-0913 or in room 116 in the Department of Psychology at Scripps College. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant that have not been answered by the investigator you may contact the Scripps College Institutional Review Board at irb@scrippscollege.edu.

There is no injury coverage for this project. Scripps College cannot cover any costs of injury resulting from this project if any were to occur.

You are voluntarily making a decision whether or not to participate in this research study. Your signature certifies that you are at least 18 years of age and have decided to participate having read and understood the information presented. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep. (If you will be doing an online study, please explain how participants can indicate consent or lack thereof. For instance, instead of this paragraph, you could have one button labeled “By clicking this button, I certify that I am at least 18 years of age and have voluntarily decided to participate in this study, having read and understood the information presented.” and a second button labeled “I do not wish to consent to participate in this study.” And participants can be told that they can print a copy of this consent page to keep.)

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Signature of Participant Printed Name Date

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Signature of Researcher Printed Name Date

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