

October 1, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a student/faculty member working under the direction of Professor Kevin Minch, in the Division of Language and Literature, at Truman State University. I am participating in a nation-wide project called DebateWatch 2000. The purpose of this project is to increase public interest in 2000 political campaign debates and to gather public reactions to the format and content of those debates. Your participation in this project will involve completing the attached survey instrument (optional), watching a 60 to 90-minute political debate, and participating in post-debate discussion.

Your group's viewing of the debate and/or the post-debate discussion may be viewed and/or recorded for broadcast by a local or national media outlet (television, print media, or radio). Your participation in this aspect of the activity is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to participate in this manner, but still wish to be involved in a DebateWatch group, you will be directed to alternative DebateWatch meeting locations without a media presence. If you choose not to participate there will be no effect on your grades in any class or on any service you might receive from the University in the future.

The contents of the optional survey instrument being administered with this project will in no way be associated with your comments to the media and will be kept entirely confidential.

If you have any questions about this project please call me at _____, or Dr. Minch at (660) 785-5677. Completion of the form below will be considered as your consent to participate in DebateWatch in front of media representatives.

Sincerely,

Name of Student/Faculty Member Holding Focus Group
Department (If Applicable)
Phone Number and E-Mail (If Applicable)

Please Complete and Detach the Following:

DebateWatch 2000 Media Participation Consent Form

Please indicate whether or not you agree to participate in a DebateWatch discussion group recorded for broadcast or observed by a representative of the print or broadcast media. Keep the portion of this form above the dotted line for your information.

I have read and understand the information provided to me about the DebateWatch 2000 discussion groups being conducted by _____ and other researchers at Truman State University. I understand that my group will have representatives of the mass media present that may record portions of the group discussion for broadcast or print.

I _____ do give _____ do not give my permission for my comments in the discussion group to be so recorded.

Signature

Date

Note to Facilitator: Please return consent forms to Truman DebateWatch Headquarters at 200 Kirk Memorial