Dear Parents,

As part of our regular classroom routine, your child is participating in a writing instructional program. Writing activities will be offered in the classroom and through homework. You might have noticed some of these activities, like story writing and retelling, in the homework assignments.

As part of my Educational Specialist Degree at State University, I am doing a research study that focuses on how to improve the writing instructional program offered by the district. I am hoping to study how the children learn to write and how I adapt the program to fit their needs. Attached is an invitation for your child to participate in this research project.

If you decide to let your child participate, I will collect information about your child’s learning through a reflective journal, observation notes, writing assessment, and work samples. At the end of my research study (which will most likely be in March) I will write a report about how dramatic play and storytelling impact students and their ability to write stories. Please note that participation in this study is voluntary and no data will be collected for use within this study unless permission is granted.

Please read over the attached parental permission form that explains this research study. If you agree to allow me to copy your child’s written work for use within this study, please sign the bottom of the permission form and return it to school in your child’s Friday Folder. Please note that your child’s real name will be removed from any work that is copied for this study. Thank you for all of your support this year.

Sincerely,

(Name of Researcher)

State University
Parental Permission Form

Title: Using Performance Arts to Facilitate Creating Writing

Student Principal Investigator: ________________________________
(Researcher’s Name)

Faculty Advisor: ________________________________
(Professor’s Name)

I. Purpose
Your child is invited to participate in a research study that focuses on using performing arts to improve creative writing. All of the children in the kindergarten class will be invited. I am doing the study as part of my Educational Specialists degree program. As a result of this study, I hope to learn more about how students learn to write stories.

II. Procedures
As part of our regular classroom routine, your child is learning about writing through journal writing. All students will get writing instruction; however permission is needed from parents to use students’ work in research reports. I hope to collect information about your child’s learning through a reflective journal, writing assessments, and work samples. Your permission will show that I can use this information in my research report.

III. Risks
Participation in this study does not pose a risk greater than a regular school day.

IV. Benefits
Participation in this study may not benefit your child directly. This study will benefit teachers who want to learn more about teaching creative writing.

V. Voluntary Participation
Participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide not to let your child participate, your decision will not affect your child’s grades or role in the classroom. Your child can drop out of the study at any time.

VI. Confidentiality
Any work collect will be stored in a locked file cabinet in my classroom. All study data will be destroyed when the report is done. Your child will be given a pretend name and all names will be removed from any written work.

VII. Contact Persons
You may call _____________ at ________________ if you have questions. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s rights in this research study, you may contact ________________.

VIII. Copy of Permission Form
I will give you a copy of this permission form to keep. If you are willing to give permission for your child’s writing samples to be copied for creative writing study research, please sign below.

________________________
Child’s Name

________________________
Parent Name (Please Print)

________________________  ________________
Parent Signature                      Date

________________________  ________________
Principal Investigator Obtaining Consent                      Date