

## Title Use Survey

I appreciate your help in this course project. Your responses will help me fulfill a course requirement and will help me learn more about language.

This survey is anonymous and confidential. You will not be asked your name and no identifying information will be recorded. Individual surveys will be destroyed when the project is finished.

This survey is for a class project in linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh. The class is taught by Dr. Scott Kiesling in the Department of Linguistics. If you have any questions, feel free to call Dr. Kiesling at 412-624-5916 or email [kiesling@pitt.edu](mailto:kiesling@pitt.edu).

### ***Background information***

Your Gender:

Your Ethnicity/Race:

Your Age:

Your Occupation (if you are a student either list your mother's and father's occupations or your occupation before you became a student):

What is the last level of education you completed?

### ***Instructions***

Suppose the company you work for is doing a mailing to all its women clients. You have been given a list of the clients, along with whatever personal information is on the record. Your job is to prepare the mailing labels. How will you address the letter to each of the women described in the following pages? Please **choose only one of the options** provided for each woman.

1. Julia Allen is a 23-year-old university student. She is not married, but she has been living with her boyfriend, Fred Rogers, for two years. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Allen                       Ms. Rogers                       Miss Allen  
 Miss Rogers                       Mrs. Allen                       Mrs. Rogers

2. Elaine Parker is a 35-year-old lawyer, married to Alex Wilson. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Parker                       Ms. Wilson                       Miss Parker  
 Miss Wilson                       Mrs. Parker                       Mrs. Wilson

3. Sandra Brant is a 19-year-old single mother living on her own with her child. The child's father, Stan Morris, has no contact with Sandra or the child. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Brant                       Ms. Norris                       Miss Brant  
 Miss Norris                       Mrs. Brant                       Mrs. Norris

4. Leanne Norton is 38 years old. She is a full-time homemaker with three children. Her husband works full time and supports the family. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Norton                       Miss Norton                       Mrs. Norton

5. Selina Farley is a 17-year-old high school student living with her parents. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Farley                       Miss Farley                       Mrs. Farley

6. Grace Dawson is a 57-year-old widow who works as a volunteer at a shelter for battered women and children. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Dawson                       Miss Dawson                       Mrs. Dawson

7. Fiona Stevens-Harper and her husband, Frank Harper, are co-owners of a small hardware store. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Stevens-Harper     Ms. Harper                       Ms. Stevens  
 Miss Stevens-Harper     Miss Harper                       Miss Stevens  
 Mrs. Stevens-Harper     Mrs. Harper                       Mrs. Stevens

8. Barb Elliot is a 42-year-old stock broker who lives with her lesbian lover, Judy Albright. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Elliot                       Ms. Albright                       Miss Elliot  
 Miss Albright                       Mrs. Elliot                       Mrs. Albright

9. Mildred Jenkins is a 63-year-old retired teacher. She has never been married. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Jenkins                       Miss Jenkins                       Mrs. Jenkins

10. Allison Moore is 27 years old and works as a heavy equipment operator for the municipality she lives in. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Moore                       Miss Moore                       Mrs. Moore

11. Erica Jones-Carter is 43 years old with 3 children in high school. Her partner, Felix Carter, is the father of her children. Erica and Felix have lived common-law for over 20 years, but have never formally been married. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Jones-Carter                       Ms. Carter                       Ms. Jones  
 Miss Jones-Carter                       Miss Carter                       Miss Jones  
 Mrs. Jones-Carter                       Mrs. Carter                       Mrs. Jones

12. Rita Prentice is 29 years old and works at a bank. She thinks she might marry someday, but she has already decided that if she does, she will keep her own last name, and not take her husband's name. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Prentice                       Miss Prentice                       Mrs. Prentice

13. Esther Smith is 83 years old and is living on her own. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Smith                       Miss Smith                       Mrs. Smith

14. Lori Own is 34 and separated from her husband, Oliver Hanson. He has custody of their children. She attends university and works part-time. When she got married, she changed her name to Hanson, but now she has gone back to using her own last name. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Owen                       Ms. Hanson                       Miss Owen  
 Miss Hanson                       Mrs. Owen                       Mrs. Hanson

15. Mary Walston is 52 years old and is divorced. She has just been elected to chair the organization Feminists for Safe Transit Systems. You would address the letter to:

\_\_\_Ms. Walston            \_\_\_Miss Walston            \_\_\_Mrs. Walston

**Preferences/Opinions:**

1. What title do you prefer for yourself (if you circle more than one, please explain):

Ms.            Miss            Mrs.            Mr.            Dr.            Other \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation, if relevant:

2. What does the title "Ms." Mean to you?

3. What does the title "Miss" mean to you?

4. What does the title "Mrs." mean to you?

5. Are any of these titles for women equivalent to the male title, "Mr."?

*Thank you for your time!*