



University of South Australia
Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences.
Magill Campus.

Title of the research project: Possible Selves and the Motivation of High School Students.

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Dear Teachers,

The research data I am gathering from the students in year 10 will be looked at from the perspective of three variables. I would like you to place the students in your classes/forms into one of the three following categories:

1. High academic achievement.	2. Average academic achievement.	3. Under achievement.
Students who, in your judgement, are consistent high achievers.	Students who, in your judgement, are consistent average achievers.	Students who, in your judgement, are consistent under achievers.

The research team is well aware that we are asking for some highly sensitive and somewhat arbitrary ratings. Please realise we look only at statistical trends and do not examine for individual results. The categories are not meant to be absolute but to serve as a guide for placement. You may want to place a student in a category based on your knowledge of the student rather than on their actual performances in tests and assignments. Some students deliberately underachieve to mask their “true” abilities in the eyes of peers or others, and some students may under perform due to extended illness.

Your prepared lists will initially contain students’ names but, subsequently, these names will be replaced by specific reference numbers ensuring the anonymity of the students and your categorization. The named lists will be retained by the university and will become part of the collected data to be correlated with the responses to the questionnaires completed again in year 12. It will not be possible to identify individual students from the collected data once names are removed. These lists will then be destroyed.

The sheet for your placement of students is attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

**Geoff A. Higgs,
School of Education,
University of South Australia.**

