

Ethics & Integrity in Research

URSCA Workshop

July 9, 2024

Defining Ethics and Integrity With your neighbor, or through a chat in Zoom, discuss the following (~4min):

Defining ethics: What are ethics? In general? In the context of research, scholarship and creative activity?

Defining research integrity: What is meant by integrity in research?

Why are ethics and integrity important for researchers? Large group discussion.

General, ethical principles: In small groups at your table, or via chat in Zoom, discuss general, ethical principles.

Brainstorm general principles: Take ~ 5 minutes to brainstorm GENERAL ethical principles that are relevant to research, scholarship and creative activity. Consider principles that apply across disciplines.

Examples to get you started

- Carefulness: avoiding errors and negligence
- Respect: treating colleagues, students, the public with respect

Prioritize: Prioritize the most important principles. Be prepared to share your priorities with the large group.

Other ideas/priorities that emerged from large group discussion.

Discipline- and project-specific ethical issues: Jot down your thoughts about ethical standards in your discipline and the issues that your own project might face. After ~4min. find your research team members and/or mentor and share your ideas with them.

Discipline standards: What are some professional standards in your field of study? If you do not know, how can you find out?

What are **SPECIFIC** ethical issues you will have to deal with during your research project?

WRITE ETHICALLY
FROM START TO FINISH

PREPARE

- USE PRIMARY LITERATURE**: Secondary sources might have misinterpreted the work.
- HAVE A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR SOURCES**: Accurately communicate their ideas or terminology.

WRITE

CITE YOUR SOURCES

- DO NOT PLAGIARIZE**
- AVOID SELECTIVE REPORTING**: Present unbiased information by acknowledging conflicting evidence and alternative interpretations.
- USE YOUR OWN WORDS AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE**
- MAINTAIN THE INTENDED MEANING OF THE SOURCE**
- QUOTE VERBATIM TEXT**

PUBLISH

- GIFT AUTHORSHIP is UNETHICAL**: Only include those who have made substantial contributions to a project.
- AVOID GHOST AUTHORSHIP**: Give proper authorship or acknowledgment to those who have contributed to a paper.

Learn more about ethical writing: ori.hhs.gov/ethical_writing

More Resources

The Office of Research Integrity: <https://ori.hhs.gov/>

CITI Responsible Conduct of Research course: <https://about.citiprogram.org/>

WebGURU Guide for Undergraduate Research, modules on professionalism: <http://www.webguru.neu.edu/professionalism>

For more infographics (post some in your lab/work area): <https://ori.hhs.gov/infographics>

Raig, M. (n.d.). Avoiding plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and other questionable writing practices: A guide to ethical writing. Retrieved September 01, 2016, from https://ori.hhs.gov/ethical_writing

