



ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

PLANNING YOUR PROJECT

Know your Ethics! (Students and Supervisors)

The full code of ethics for psychologists working in NZ can be found at:
http://www.psychology.org.nz/about-nzpss/position-statements/code-of-ethics/#.W_IADS2B2so



Review previous scientific research in your chosen field (Student)

Identify a supervisor (Student and Supervisor)

- Supervisor will take responsibility for the student researcher
- Supervisor will be familiar with the relevant research in the students chosen area

YOUR PROPOSAL

Before any research can be done your written proposal must be approved.

It must include:

- Aim** General + Specific statements of purpose of the research project
- Research design + analysis plan**
- Clear procedures + justification of the chosen method**
- The population being studied**
including: Descriptions of the safeguards for the rights + welfare of participants
- The process for obtaining informed consent**
In case of participants being under 16 years old, permission from parents/guardians will be required



GETTING INFORMED CONSENT

Must include:

- i) Explanation of the purpose of the research, the time commitment expected of the participants and a description of the procedures in a way that all the participants + parents/guardians can understand.

Protection from Harm:

- ii) Description of any risks of harm or discomfort. In cases where the participants are students, they should not be exposed to any risk greater than the ordinary risks in school.

[Students should not be conducting research that poses foreseeable risk of physical/psychological/social harm to participants. Procedures should be included to show what will be done to identify and remove harmful effects]

Right to Withdraw:

- iii) It's made clear that participation is voluntary and that they can discontinue at any time and that refusal to participate will have no penalty.
 - Opportunity to withdraw with minimal discomfort + stigma should be provided.
 - Under no circumstances should participants be exposed to ridicule, force or excessive group pressure.
 - Student should not be publicly identified if they choose or decline to participate.

Confidentiality:

- iv) Describe how confidentiality will be maintained - This should include the collected data.

[In most research, the aim is to learn a principle of human behaviour, not specific information about a particular person. For this reason, data should be collected anonymously.]

If it is difficult or impossible to maintain full confidentiality the participant must be informed and given the opportunity to not participate.



DEBRIEF

e) Following the procedure:

- A Debrief should be used to correct any misconceptions about the procedure or intent of the research project. This is essential if deception has been used.
- Contact details of the supervisor should be given to enable answers to be given to questions about the project, participants rights and/or to report a research related grievance.
- Describe how data will be analysed and stored.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

- It is highly encouraged that schools form student/teacher committees to examine research proposals and grant approval in a similar manner to Ethics committees used at Universities.
- To ensure confidentiality is maintained, data collected during the research project must be safeguarded by the teacher or appropriately destroyed.
- Teachers are encouraged to consult with their regional hub of teachers or NZAPT for further advice and guidance on adherence to these guidelines.