Ethical Considerations in Using Human Subjects

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1. The investigator is personally responsible for the ethical acceptability of the research and should consult others when there is any doubt.

2. The investigator is also responsible for the ethical conduct of all who work with and for him or her, although all involved have ethical obligations.

3. Prospective research participants have a right to be as fully informed as possible about the nature of the experiment — this is known as obtaining the individual’s informed consent to participate in the experiment.

4. The investigator should maximize openness and honesty with participants and minimize deceit (lack of deception). If the true purpose of the experiment must be concealed, the participant should be fully informed after the experiment as to why this deception was necessary.

5. People may not be coerced into participating, and they must be allowed to withdraw from participation at any time.

6. The investigator must make clear to participants what agreement is being made between the two parties (participant and experimenter), and must honor any commitments made to the participants.

7. The investigator must minimize discomfort and protect participants from harm and danger. If any of these are likely to be involved, the participant must be fully informed of the risks. Procedures involving any serious and lasting harm are forbidden.

8. After the experiment, the participant is to be given full feedback about the nature of the study (debriefed).

9. If any undesirable consequences have occurred, the investigator must detect them and remove or correct them.

10. All information collected must be considered confidential. If this is not possible, the participants must be so informed beforehand.
APA Ethical Guidelines for Human Research

Research involving humans must meet the following standards:

1. *Informed Consent*-participants must know that they are involved in research and give their consent or permission.

2. *Deception*-if the participants are deceived in any way about the nature of the study, the deception must not be so extreme as to invalidate the informed consent. Also, researchers must be very careful about the trauma deception may cause.

3. *Coercion*-participants cannot be coerced in any way to give consent to be in the study.

4. *Anonymity*-the identities and actions of participants must not be revealed in any way by the researcher.

5. *Risk*-participants cannot be placed at significant mental or physical risk. This clause requires interpretation by the review board.

6. *Debriefing Procedures*-participants must be told of the purpose of the study and provided with ways to contact the researchers about the results.

Animal Research

APA Ethical Guidelines for Researchers Experimenting With Animals

1. *(purpose)* They must have a clear scientific purpose. The research must answer a specific, important scientific question. Animals are chosen because they are best-suited to answer the question at hand.

2. *(care)* They must care for and house animals in a humane way.

3. *(acquiring animals)* They must acquire animal subjects legally. Animals must be purchased from accredited companies. If wild animals must be used, they need to be trapped in a humane way.

4. *(suffering)* They must design experimental procedures that employ the least amount of suffering feasible.

5. *(supervision)* A trained psychologist must supervise all research with animals.