

Week 7: Week 7 - Final Research Report**Final Research Report****Core Assessment:**

Essay: (max. 2500 words, plus tables and figures) Students choose **TWO** extended case studies and will write an essay comparing and critically evaluating their ethical challenges and the strategies used to minimize or guard against harmful results. The essay must address the following issues:

1. What ethical principles are at issue in each case? Provide and justify specific examples.
2. What strategies were used to insure the standards of ethical research?
3. Were those strategies successful? How and why?
4. What alternate strategies might also have been used to achieve the same or better results?
5. Which case study represents a better implementation of research ethics? How and why?

Due

Submit to Dropbox by
Sunday, 11:59 PM (CST).

The two studies should have something in common: A similar topic, the method, the same ethical principles or conflict. They should also differ in the way that they addressed the ethical issues in question. Be sure to make both the similarities and differences clear to the reader. Your essay will consist of a careful, point-by-point contrast of the two cases. It should link the cases to commonly held standards of research ethics and discuss the extent to which those were followed. You should discuss the ethical, practical, and political consequences of these cases for the researchers, participants, and the social groups represented therein. And you should connect these cases to other examples of social research and implementation we have discussed.

Here is a list of the extended case studies for you to choose your two studies from. You should get the complete article for each study (go to library or use PsychInfo) so you will have detailed and complete information to address each of the five issues listed above.

NOTE: Milgram's notorious Obedience to Authority experiments are hereby officially banned from this assignment because they have been used so extensively throughout this and many other discussions on this topic. Part of this assignment is to show understanding of the principles in this course well enough to apply them to new research studies.

The Tea-Room Trade (Humphreys 1975)

Humphreys took a participant-observer role as "watch queen" in order to study anonymous male homosexual activities in St. Louis's Forest Park public restrooms. He followed the "Johns" to their cars and recorded their license numbers. Humphreys then posed as a market researcher to obtain their addresses from police registers.

About a year later, he disguised himself and gained entry to their homes by pretending to do a health survey - including questions about sexual activity. Participants were never informed of their participation in a study or given the opportunity to withdraw.