Research Ethics

What is ethics in research and how is it important?

"By David B. Resnik, J.D., Ph.D. – What Is Ethics In Research & Why Is It Important?". *National Institute Of Environmental Health Sciences*, 2020, https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/whatis/index.cfm. Accessed 13 Oct 2020.

While it is important to carefully consider all of your options regarding the methods of your research, you must also consider the ethicality of your chosen study as well. In short, ethics are the "moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity" (Oxford Dictionary). Just as it is considered *morally correct* to treat your teachers with respect, there are practices in research that determine whether or not a study is *ethically correct*.

- For example, it is common practice in writing to give credit to your sources; not doing so would be considered plagiarism and is ethically wrong.

According to Dr. David B. Resnik J.D., Ph.D., a bioethicist for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIH), there are 16 main "pillars" or foundations of ethical research practices:

- Honesty
- Objectivity
- Integrity
- Carefulness
- Openness
- Intellectual Property
- Confidentiality
- Responsible Publication
- Responsible Mentoring
- Respect of Colleagues
- Social Responsibility
- Non-Discrimination
- Competence
- Legality
- Animal Care
- Human Subjects Protection

Considering each of these practices (that apply to your study) will ensure that your research is conducted in an ethical manner!