**Collection:** Responsible Conduct of Research Teaching Materials

**Sponsor:** Communication

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**Institutional Affiliation**: Trinity University

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**Course**: Transmedia Storytelling and Games for the Web

**Course Department**: Communication

**Student Level**: Upper Division Undergraduate

**Activity Type**: Essay Prompt

**RCR category**: Human Subjects

**Discipline:** Communication

**Module based on (Source)**: <http://trinitygames.wordpress.com/2010/10/05/blog-5-dissecting-unethical-research-methods/>

**Abstract**: Essay assignment requiring students to identify and report on well-known research ethics case studies in the social sciences

**Keywords**: research ethics, communication, internet, social research

**File**:

In your next blog assignment, due before the end of the day on Wednesday, October 13th, you will profile a single case study of ethically flawed social science research. In your first paragraph, you should contextualize the project by identifying the motives of the researchers, the research questions driving the study, and — if available — any information about how the study was funded. In the second paragraph, you should explain the method used by the researchers along with any significant findings that emerged from the study. In your third paragraph, identify the specific ethical principles that the researchers violated and explain how they could have revised their methods to respect fundamental research ethics. Finally, in your fourth paragraph, articulate any take-away lessons that might apply to the research we conduct under the auspices of the Worldplay Research Initiative (WRI).