

Role-Play Scenarios for Teaching Responsible Conduct of Research

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Research Questions

How effective are role-play scenarios in teaching the responsible conduct of research?

More particularly, can role-play simulations help students identify ethical issues in research and negotiate workable solutions?

What Do We Know?

- Many previous articles report the use of role-plays (simulations) in teaching ethics and other topics in science and engineering
- No articles systematically assess the efficacy of role-play in teaching ethics and the responsible conduct of research
- No empirical articles report significant reluctance of science and engineering students to participate in simulations
- Because role-play is an active learning technique, it should promote student engagement, long-term retention



Topics of Scenarios

We will develop role-play scenarios on

- Plagiarism
- Authorship
- Conflict of interest
- Interpersonal conflicts in mentoring
- Compliance with regulations: human participants, animal subjects, hazardous substances
- Whistle-blowing



Goals

We expect participants will learn

- to perceive and identify moral issues in the conduct of research
- to understand multiple perspectives in ethical disagreements in academic research
- to negotiate practical solutions to moral problems in conducting research



Assessment

- Formative and summative
- Diversity of disciplines: engineering, agriculture, physical science, biological science, behavioral science; also testing at Howard University
- Multiple methods:
 - Surveys
 - Case analyses
 - Transcript analyses
 - Focus groups
 - Individual interviews

Dissemination

- Demonstrate role-play technique at Teaching Research Ethics workshops at Indiana University
- Demonstrate role-play at annual meetings of Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, and Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum
- Show video of role-play at Council of Graduate Schools meetings
- Post complete set of role-play scenarios and instructions at Online Ethics Center for Engineering and Science