

## Human Subject Research Guidelines

IMPORTANT: These rules are in place to help participants or in the case of children, their parents, make informed decisions (i.e., my child can't participate in this experiment because it has food "x" which my child is allergic to, or I do not want my child listening to that type of music or doing that type of test or activity).

- Whenever science fair projects use children as participants - have the human subjects forms filled out! Children are a vulnerable group COVERED BY FEDERAL REGULATIONS. Children may not always be able to make informed decisions and their parents must give consent no matter how "simple" or "usual" the research project seems to be. There can be circumstances that the researcher may not have considered for which a parent must be able to have control or consent.
- Research Plans should provide enough detailed information so that if one wanted to REPLICATE the experiment s/he could. The plan should include: who will participate, extent of time of the experiment, how instructions will be provided, how the project will be carried out, who will supervise, how safety will be maintained, what will happen with the data results and how the experimenter will inform the participants (privacy concerns), whether humans involved will be anonymous.
- Detailed information helps the reviewers and the parents make decisions about the experiment and whether there are any safety concerns.
- If the project involves music - then the plan should include what specific music will be played (list the songs).
- If the project involves having the participants taste different items, then the plan should include what specific items will be tasted (list the actual foods).
- If the project involves exercise - then what type and for how long. How does this differ from what is done in gym class?
- When describing any potential risk (question #2 on human subject form), describe the level of risk and what that might be. Some risk is always assumed so do not put down "there is no risk."
- The Human Subject form, **once approved and signed by the IRB**, is what the student **then makes copies of for each subject/guardian's consent**. Do not obtain signed consents PRIOR to IRB approval.