



CHAPTER 2 WORKSHEET: PRIMARY ETHICAL ISSUES

Here are brief summaries of several different hypothetical research projects. What are the primary ethical issues the researcher needs to consider?

Hypothetical research scenario 1: A researcher conducts survey research in a private Catholic college in order to understand how the identity of the college impacts life in that organization for students and employees.

Hypothetical research scenario 2: A researcher moves into an apartment building in an urban working-class neighborhood that has been selected by developers for a development project. The researcher's goal is to understand the impact of the development process on the community and help the community participate in its own development process. The researcher discloses their identity and conducts field research, interview research, and document analysis.

Hypothetical research scenario 3: A researcher poses as a homeless person in order to conduct field research on what it means to live as a homeless person—how they get food, money, shelter, build relationships, and so forth. The researcher intends to create a performance piece out of the research findings.

Hypothetical research scenario 4: A researcher conducts oral history interview research with Rwandan genocide survivors, conducting multiple interviews over an extended period of time. The researcher's goal is to document participants' experiences and how they reflect on and make sense of those experiences as time passes.