Week 10

Ethics is Qualitative Research

An important aspect of any research and perhaps more so for qualitative research is ensuring that ethical standards are closely followed. For example, think back to your CITI Training and the importance of doing no harm and not violating human rights. Ethical review boards such as IRBs closely examine procedures to ensure participant protection. Ethical dilemmas can occur in qualitative research by the very nature of the researcher-participant relationship. Ethical issues can also arise due to the other inherent component of qualitative research and that is the researcher’s interpretation of the data.

In addition, sensitive issues are often the focus of qualitative research, which means that great care must be taken by the researcher to understand their responsibilities that go beyond the researcher-participant relationship. A good example of this is the duty to report that therapists and clinicians must adhere to regarding their license to practice. If you are a researcher and also a clinician, and your participant, in the course of collecting your data, shares with you that she has abused her child, or is abusing drugs – what are your options? In this case, your duty to report takes precedence over confidentiality in the researcher-participant relationship you have established.

To avoid such ethical dilemmas, it is important, as part of consent, to describe your study and be clear that certain information is excluded from confidentiality and to identify the types of information that can become problematic.

Be sure to review this week's resources carefully. You are expected to apply the information from these resources when you prepare your assignments.

**Resource materials**

Creswell, J.W. (2013). Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among the five approaches. Thousand Oaks, CA. Sage Publications.

**Read Chapter 9**

Denzin, N. (2009). The elephant in the living room: or extending the conversation about the politics of evidence. Qualitative Research, 9:139

Orb, A., Eisenhauer, L., & Wynaden, D (2001). Ethics in qualitative research. Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 33:1, 93-96.

# Week 10 - Assignment: Prepare a Draft of Signature Assignment

[**Previous**](https://ncuone.ncu.edu/d2l/le/content/117679/navigateContent/415/Previous?pId=1223529)[**Next**](https://ncuone.ncu.edu/d2l/le/content/117679/navigateContent/415/Next?pId=1223529)

## Instructions

**Spotlight on Skills: Academic Integrity**

Throughout your coursework, you will be asked to review the work of others, offer critiques, and provide your own solutions to issues and problems related to the field. During this process, you must be scrupulous in distinguishing between your work and the work of others. One way of doing this is through integrity in writing.

Northcentral University considers it a violation of Academic Integrity to knowingly submit another person's work and present it as that of the student's, without properly citing the source of the work.

* Carefully note that Northcentral University's Academic Integrity code requires not only that the student abstain from presenting the work of another as his or her own work, but also that the student properly cites the source of the work.
* Northcentral University considers it the responsibility of the student to become familiar with how to cite sources properly. All students are required to complete the Academic Integrity Questionnaire successfully at the beginning of their course of studies, thus confirming their understanding of the Integrity policy and their commitment to adhering to that policy.
* Instructors are required to provide a sample of each student's work to the TurnItIn service, which checks each paper for similarity to original works and papers turned in by students in hundreds of other universities.
* The student is responsible for understanding and adhering to the Academic Integrity Policy and for avoiding all instances of plagiarism in writing. Violations of the Northcentral University Integrity Code are reported by the Instructor to the School and a series of consequences follow, ranging from being required to revise the paper within 3 days (first violation only) to grade penalties, course failures, and dismissal from the university.

View the Northcentral Academic Integrity Tutorial, located under your weekly resources, to refresh your knowledge of how to achieve academic integrity.

**Assignment**

Your task this week is to prepare a draft of your Signature Assignment, which is a literature review that examines a topic from a qualitative research design perspective. You submitted your topic to your faculty for review in Week 1. Be sure your draft follows this format:

* Introduce the topic and provide a brief background.
* Present a brief problem of interest.
* Identify the qualitative research method that could be used to investigate this research problem.
* Review relevant literature that ensures that you address the following:
  + Describe limitations, benefits, and challenges of your chosen qualitative research design.
  + Evaluate selected software analysis program to be used.
  + Discuss validity threats in your chosen qualitative design.
  + Assess potential ethical issues in your chosen qualitative design.
* Conclude with a summary that synthesizes the research and points to gaps in the literature and to directions that further research might take.

Remember to use appropriate section headings and apply APA format correctly to them. You also will need to support your assignment with at least **10 references**.

Your paper should demonstrate thoughtful consideration of the ideas and concepts presented in the course by providing new thoughts and insights relating directly to the topic. Your response should reflect scholarly writing and current APA standards. Be careful to adhere to North central’s Academic Integrity Policy.

What is a signature assignment

**Your Signature Assignment is a broad, comprehensive literature review of qualitative material relevant to your research interest that you stated in Week 1. The intent of this assignment is to ensure that you have gained an understanding of qualitative research design. It also provides you with an opportunity to apply qualitative research design to a topic of interest to you.**