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Part V: The Ethics of Research

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Reference:

- Wayne Booth, George Colomb, Joseph Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William FitzGerald, **The Craft of Research**, 4th Edition, The University of Chicago Press, 2016.

Introduction

- **Research is a social activity** that connects you to those who:
 - Will **read** your research
 - Will **use** your research
 - Might **benefit**—or **suffer**—from that use
- Think about **your responsibilities** towards your colleagues, country and the glob.

Thou Shalt Nots

- **Plagiarize** or claim credit for the results of others
- **Misreport** sources, **invent** data, or **fake** results
- **Submit data whose accuracy you don't trust**, unless you say so
- **Conceal** objections that you cannot rebut
- **Caricature** or **distort** opposing views
- **Destroy** data or **conceal** sources important for those who follow

Thou Shalt

- Honestly **pursue** the truth
- Find the best solution to shared problems
- Serve the best interests of both researchers and readers

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is **theft**.
- By not acknowledging a source, the plagiarist **steals** the modest **recognition** that honest researchers should receive.
- The student plagiarist **steals** not only from his sources, but **from his colleagues** by making their work seem lesser by comparison to what was bought or stolen.
- The plagiarist **compromises** her own education and so **steals** from the **larger society** that devotes its resources to training her and her generation.

Conclusion

- When you **report your research ethically**, you join a community in a search for some common good.
- When you
 - **respect** sources,
 - **preserve** and **acknowledge** data that run against your results,
 - **assert** claims only as strongly as warranted,
 - **acknowledge** the limits of your **certainty**,
 - and **meet** all the other **ethical obligations** you have as a researcher and writer,
- you move beyond gaining a grade or other material goods—you earn the larger benefit that comes from creating a **bond with your readers**.
- You discover that research focused on the **best interests** of **others** is also in **your own**.