

Faculty Use of Course Assignments as Research Data

There may be circumstances when a faculty member wishes to use required course assignments in his or her research. If the faculty member/instructor is planning to use data from course assignments for disseminated research, IRB approval should be obtained. The course syllabus should clearly state that the assignments are required for the course, but that at the end of the semester, the instructor will ask the student to give permission to use the assignments for research purposes. It should be clear that participation will not affect a student's grade. The syllabus should describe the procedure to be used to ensure that the instructor does not know who has consented until after final grades have been determined (e.g., Informed Consent Document could be kept in the department secretary's/administrative assistant's office until after grades have been determined).