



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Technology Teacher Education Program

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EDUC 450 Inquiry Project Ethics Guide

1. Inquiry & Research Ethics

- a. Definitions
 - i. Inquiry is an activity that produces knowledge.
 - ii. The TCPS 2 defines **research** as “a systematic investigation to establish facts, principles or generalizable knowledge” (p. 17).
<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/archives/tcps-epc/section1-chapitre1/#1A>
- b. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) is the primary federal research policy and funding agency for educational researchers and is bound to the TCPS 2.
 - i. Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS 2) governs formal research ethics across Canada. <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-epc2/Default/>
 1. To conform with the TCPS2, UBC maintains Research Ethics Boards. The REBs review and approve proposals for research with animals and humans.
 2. Any inquiry or research that uses methods or techniques to obtain responses from participants that will be analyzed to answer a research question or problem is subject to REB review
 3. **In most cases**, self-study and teacher inquiry fall under a category of "Exempt from REB Review" (see above from [TCPS 2](#)). One of the revisions from TCPS 1 to TCPS 2 was a close look at the Exemptions as it became clear that many practices, including most of teaching, is self-governed by professional Codes of Ethics (e.g., BCTF). And in most cases what is submitted to Reviews Boards (e.g., UBC BREB) falls under the category of Minimal Risk.
- c. Third party interviews or data fall under the Section 2.2 exemption of the TCPS2. The [Section 2.2 exemption states](#): “Research that relies exclusively on publicly available information does not require REB review when... the information is publicly accessible and there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.” The Section continues, and clarifies that

Cyber-material such as documents, records, performances, online archival materials or published third party interviews to which the public is given uncontrolled access on the Internet for which there is no expectation of privacy is considered to be publicly available information.
- d. TCPS2 reiterates the exemption expressed in the TCPS (2005) [Statement on Third Party Interviews or Secondary Use of Data](#): “Information derived from publicly available third-party interviews does not require REB review, because such research

- involves no interaction with research participants, and the data is publicly accessible through public records or archives.”
- e. For Inquiry Projects, as you broadcast, present, report, write, etc., you will be paraphrasing or directly quoting comments that are "publicly accessible" with "no reasonable expectation of privacy" (e.g., blog comments, tweets, etc.). That's fine and well within exemption.
 - f. Be sure to provide the attribution or reference from where the third party are accesses (e.g., provide citation and URL).