



Ethics in Research Agreement

Dear students and parents or guardians:

At Rio Rancho Public Schools, we are committed to bringing students the opportunity to conduct real scientific research at the pre-college level. Research is a critical aspect of education and an integral part of our society. Schools and industry looking for emerging talent are increasingly emphasizing this importance.

Rio Rancho Public Schools is affiliated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and therefore, all projects conducted require a proposal to be submitted to the school's Science Review Committee. The committee's purpose is not to scrutinize the viability of the project, but rather to review safety, confidentiality, and issues of accepted ethical behavior in research.

Students have the opportunity to compete for thousands of dollars in prize money and awards each year. Many projects are subsequently chosen to move on to regional, state, and international levels of competition. Countless hours are spent by hundreds of students, and the results of their labor are very impressive.

As such, it is critical that we maintain a high degree of integrity in the research that is conducted at our Research Expos. The following list includes behaviors that are not allowed, and infractions may result in significant consequences. **Please read over them carefully and be sure you understand them before signing this document.**

ANY OF THE BEHAVIORS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED VIOLATIONS OF THIS ETHICS AGREEMENT.

- **Copying a project (in full or in part) off the Internet, another person, (even with his or her permission) or copying from any other source, even if proper citation credit is given. EVEN IF YOU CHANGE SOME OF THE WORD AND PHRASES, THIS IS PLAGIARISM! *The project must be your work and your words!* It is ok to get the *idea* from someone or somewhere else, but then be sure to cite proper credit. Parenthetical citation, in addition to credit in the bibliography is necessary. If building a piece of test equipment is required for data collection, but not the purpose of the project itself, then it is okay to copy the construction plans verbatim off of a source, but make sure you include a citation at the bottom of the plans as well as in your bibliography.**
- **Misrepresenting experimental results in any way, which includes the following:**
 - Altering collected data
 - Adding trials that were not performed
 - Any other form of data fabrication
- **Claiming credit for work not done by the student. *If it's not your work or idea, make sure you cite the proper owner.***
- **Making up the project, entirely or in part. *In other words, not doing the project, but claiming you did.***
- **Not following the procedure(s) in the experimental design approved by the SRC. *This does not include minor logistical and other convenience alterations, but applies to changes that may affect human safety and privacy, humane treatment of animals, property damage, liability concerns, EXPO protocol and regulations, or the intent of the project that may result in harmful effects. When in doubt, please contact your school's SRC Coordinator.***
- **Conducting the project before SRC approval – *Does not include preliminary investigations for hypothesis development.***
- **Forging any signatures on paperwork.**
- **For human subjects or vertebrate animal projects – not following the exact protocol submitted on Form 4 and in the experimental design – *Particularly important because of regulations governing these types of subject research.***

Violations of any of the above can result in a zero on the project, administrative consequences, and the return of all money, awards, plaques, and other recognition that may have been won. Suspect projects may be investigated by the Science Review Committee, Ethics Committee, and school administration.

<p>Students – please sign to indicate that you have read and understand the conditions stated above, and agree to adhere to those standards.</p> <p>Student's name: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p>Parents – please sign to indicate that you have read and understand the conditions stated above. Please contact Rob Keeney at 962-9303 or rob.keeney@rrps.net with any questions.</p> <p>Parent's name: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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