

CHAPTER 2

Part 3

I. ETHICS OF EXPERIMENTATION

- The question comes up of how far is too far in an experiment to find out information. Or is it okay to do whatever you want to subjects in order to get answers to questions?
- There are certain guidelines that the American Psychological Association has laid out for researchers to follow when they are conducting experiments on people as well as animals.



I. ETHICS OF EXPERIMENTATION

- Subjects always have the right to decline participation in an experiment, or withdraw from an experiment at any time.
- Researchers cannot coerce or guilt someone into doing something that they are not comfortable with. Not only is this unethical, but it could invalidate any findings because the person may only be doing what they think they are supposed to do.



I. ETHICS OF EXPERIMENTATION

- Openness and honesty are essential to experimentation.
- Researchers should disclose what the experiment is designed to do either before the experiment begins, or immediately afterward. If telling the subject what the experiment is about would compromise the experiment, then debrief them immediately after.



HONESTY

A man is never more truthful than when he acknowledges himself a liar.

I. ETHICS OF EXPERIMENTATION

- Information obtained about a subject during the course of a study must remain confidential.
- If the subject knows beforehand that the information will be visible to others and gives consent, that is fine. But they must be protected as much as possible.



I. ETHICS OF EXPERIMENTATION

- The experimenter must accurately describe the risks to the subject, minimize potential risks, and remove any undesirable consequences of participation.
- There may be unforeseen circumstances or effects to an experiment that could not be predicted or accounted for. But the short-term and long-term risks should be discussed with the subject.



I. ETHICS OF EXPERIMENTATION

- Animal testing has become an important issue. The question of the ethics when testing animals starts with the idea of consent. Animals cannot give consent to being tested.
- Since most of the testing done on animals is looking at biological responses to variables, there is a concern for the physical well-being of the animals. They should not intentionally cause pain and suffering to the animals.
- Most psychologists still support animal testing, but not if it causes pain or suffering for the animal.





IN YOUR NOTEBOOK

- What do you think we should do about animal testing? Should it be continued or abandoned? Give two reasons for your answer in a half-page response.