

Model IRB Activity  
Instructor Directions

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Have students prepare an IRB research proposal and upload it to your course management page without including their name. Assign each proposal a number and keep a list of which student is associated with each number. This will give students some practice in strategies to protect privacy and will also protect student privacy as they provide feedback to one another.

Plan to divide your class into groups of three or five. These groups will serve as the “model IRB committee.” The size of the groups depends on your overall course size. In the author’s

classmates. Remember to print enough copies for all group members and to avoid giving a group a proposal that was authored by a group member (this can be tricky to do perfectly on the day of the activity, so it is helpful to establish groups and determine ahead of class time which proposals will be assigned to which group).

Once you determine which groups will receive which proposals, distribute the proposals to group members so that they have enough time to read them over before discussion. Also, distribute the Model IRB Reviewer Worksheet or make the link to this quiz available. Since each student will complete this worksheet or quiz for each proposal they review, you may need to post the quiz multiple times (once for each proposal that a student is reviewing). Each group member will receive one reviewer worksheet/one reviewer quiz for each proposal that they are assigned to review. Allow some time for students to review the proposals. One week should be enough time to read and think about all proposals assigned to the group.

On the “model IRB meeting” day, convene class and have students meet with their group. They

evaluations of the contents of a proposal. Therefore, the final score that a student receives on this quiz should not be interpreted as their own grade. Rather, the score should be interpreted as a rough measure of the quality of the proposal. Higher scores (out of 48 points possible) indicate a higher-quality proposal, and this score may be helpful to students when they are discussing the proposals as a group. The instructor should assign a different grade for completion of this