

Paper Topic: *The Lab*

The Office of Research Integrity, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has just released an interesting new resource for teaching the ethics of scientific research. It is an interactive web video called *The Lab: Avoiding Research Misconduct*, in which the user can take the perspective of any of four main characters in the story—a third-year graduate student, a postdoctoral student, a principal investigator, or a research administrator. The interactive aspect of the video is that the user is confronted with choice situations, makes decisions, and is shown how they turn out. Every character has several choice situations that occur in sequence.

In case you would like to take advantage of this new resource, you may write one of your papers on the following paper topic (numbered 34 to continue the numbering of paper topics begun on the syllabus):

34. Go to the web site for *The Lab: Avoiding Research Misconduct* (<http://ori.hhs.gov/TheLab>), go through the video as one of the four characters, and answer these questions:
 - a. What was the role of the character that you went through the video as (third-year graduate student, postdoctoral student, principal investigator, or research administrator)?
 - b. What were the main ethical or professional lessons that the video sought to convey about proper behavior and decision-making for a person in that role?
 - c. How would you evaluate this video, either in terms of the substance of the lessons it conveys or in terms of its overall design and execution as a tool for teaching the ethics of scientific research?

To give you more latitude to write a paper on this topic, I am modifying the paper rules, for this topic only, as follows:

1. The length limit of 300 words is extended to 500 words. (You are not required to write a longer paper, however—the additional length is just an option.)
2. You can turn in a paper on this topic in any week, even a week in which you are also turning in a paper on some other topic. (Papers on this topic will be accepted until the latest of the due dates for the other paper topics. Since the video could be unavailable for some reason later in the semester, do not count on being able to write a paper on this topic at the last minute.)