Human Subjects Protection and Scholarship Not Requiring IRB Review

What follows is language, developed in collaboration with UW IRB staff, for researchers to use in reply to questions regarding IRB review of their work when studies are determined, in accordance with federal guidelines, to require no formal IRB review. We anticipate this language would be used in cases when conferences or journals require that work appearing there be done in accordance with federal guidelines protecting human subjects, or when students need to document that dissertation work was done in accordance with federal guidelines.

In cases when the researcher submitted an IRB application and received a response that the work does not fit the definition of human subjects research as specified within the federal guidelines and therefore is determined by the IRB to require no further review, the researcher should maintain the IRB response and may respond to inquiries about IRB review with the following language:

*The work in question was submitted for review to the University of Washington IRB. In accordance with federal guidelines, the IRB determined that the work did not fall within its purview and required no further review.*

In cases when the researcher followed the project-review guidelines as specified by the UW IRB and self-determined that the work does not fit the definition of human subjects research as specified within the federal guidelines and therefore requires no additional IRB review, the researcher may respond to inquiries about IRB review with the following language:

*I [the researcher] reviewed the work in question in accordance with University of Washington IRB interpretations of federal guidelines, as described in the policy and procedures available at:*

<https://www.washington.edu/research/policies/sop-human-subjects-research-2/>

*using the IRB worksheet available at:*

<https://www.washington.edu/research/forms-and-templates/worksheet-human-subjects-research/>

*and determined that it required no IRB review.*