



Step 2: Ethical Considerations

Exercise For Students: Practicing Ethical Introductions and Handling Rejection

Purpose:

To help students practice how to ethically and clearly introduce themselves and their research in public, and to reflect on how to respond appropriately when people choose not to participate.

Part 1: Ethical Introduction – Role Play (20–25 minutes)

Instructions:

Pair up with a classmate. One of you plays the **student researcher**, and the other plays a **member of the public**.

The "student researcher" should:

- Greet the person politely
- Introduce (her/he`s name, school/university, program)
- Briefly explain the **purpose** of the fieldwork
- Clarify how the **information will be used**
- Emphasize that participation is **voluntary and anonymous**

Then switch roles.

Example opening line:

"Hi, my name is [Name], and I'm a student at [University] conducting a small research project on [topic]. I'm asking a few short questions, but please know that your participation is completely voluntary and anonymous. Would you be open to talking for a few minutes?"

Part 2: Rejection Scenario – Reflect and Discuss (15 minutes)

Now imagine the person says **"No thanks"** or walks away without engaging.

Individually, write short answers to these prompts:



- How did you feel when your invitation was rejected?



- What might be going on in the other person's life that influenced their reaction?
- How can you stay respectful and positive even in moments of rejection?

Then, discuss in small groups:

- Why is it important to prepare for rejection in fieldwork?
- What does it mean to handle rejection "with grace"?

Facilitator Tip:

End the session with a brief group reflection:

Ask volunteers to share their most effective or respectful introduction phrase and one key insight they gained about ethical engagement.