# Proposal B - Procedures, Consent & Privacy

The focus of this assignment is revising your procedures and treatment descriptions so they are as thorough and clear as possible. Clarity about what, when, where, how, and who is the biggest challenge in successfully conducting an experiment – and therefore appropriately the biggest hurdle for IRB approval as well. This material will receive the highest level of scrutiny from your classmates in our pre-IRB review and from the subsequent formal IRB review.

You will have to do this well before your proposal is submitted for formal IRB review, so getting it right in this iteration will save you work later (and improve your grade).

Remember that the only thing you are guaranteed to learn in an experiment is a new way that experiments can go wrong. Your goal is to eliminate as many ways the experiment can go wrong by thinking about every step of the process.

If you are proposing an online survey experiment, you will need to include a link to a working copy of the survey as well as the text of the full survey instrument in the appendix. For other types of experiments, describe the treatments in the text but if the treatments are long please put the full materials in an appendix at the end of the proposal.

The standards for consent and privacy are clear cut, and there is little reason to reinvent the language for describing the procedures. If you are asking for waiver of signed consent, you must clearly explain the rationale for doing so as discussed in class. Otherwise, please stick closely to the same language and procedures from past approved IRB proposals posted on the course website.