

## Learning Unit Exercise

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COMM 398

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMM 398 Learning Unit Exercise #1: Tuskegee Study

Watch “The Deadly Deception” video on YouTube (see link provided on the assignment page or go here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNa8CnC4sSU>) and follow all instructions for this activity. Simply type in your responses under the each corresponding question I posed. Clearly indicate the items to which you are responding. Respond to items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Answer either item 6 or 7. Come to class prepared to discuss your response to the item that you do not answer; type in brief notes (i.e., terms or short phrases) in order to help you prepare for class discussion.

1. What was the problem statement (RQ/H) of the Tuskegee syphilis study? *Correctly format your RQ/H by using the APA style.*
2. How were the results of the study obtained?
3. What were the impacts of the study?
4. Address ethical issues that were involved in the study. Specifically, apply at least 3 of the following terms in your discussion to show me your understanding: (a) voluntary consent, (b) informed consent, (c) anonymity, (d) confidentiality, (e) debriefing, and (f) other key terms or concepts from the chapter. Be sure you **highlight** the key terms in your discussion.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
5. React to the video. Discuss 2 main ideas that seems especially significant to you for some reason. Cite lines (i.e., quote) from the video. Discuss why you found the lines significant. Did the lines puzzle you? Surprise you? Enlighten you? What did you react to?
  - a. Main idea #1, quote from the video, discussion:
  - b. Main idea #2, quote from the video, discussion:
6. Some groups have a history of being exploited by medical researchers; others (e.g., women) of being left out; some of both. To what extent should research take into account differences among human beings? For instance, should they assume people are basically alike, and not actively seek out differences? Should they assume from the beginning that race and sex may be biologically relevant? Is this a scientific question, an ethical question, or both?

7. In my experience teaching research methods, students have mixed reactions to the Tuskegee study. Most students' initial reaction is to ask how it could have happened. Many thought studies like that could not happen today, since the current society has moved beyond such discrimination of human subjects. In general, students think that communication studies mostly involve survey questionnaires and behavioral observation that has no significant consequences like the Tuskegee study.
  - a. Evaluate the students' mixed reactions, and tell me what you think. Discuss 2-3 main points in your evaluation. React to the various conclusions. Are they puzzling? Surprising? Agreeable? What did you react to?
  
8. Come to class and attend the discussion on the day this assignment is due. After the discussion, I will instruct you to write down 3 points summarizing your reflection on completing this assignment. Particularly, you state a few "new" things you have learned through the discussion by focusing on the role of ethics in research studies.