Class Activities

# Chapter #1: The Purpose of Research

1. A university researcher is interested in conducting research to assess the effectiveness of an obesity prevention intervention in an urban community. The intervention targets men of color. Once enrolled, researchers ask each participant to participate in a 12-week educational and behavioral intervention with both an individual and a group component. Researchers also request participants to provide clinical data (e.g., cholesterol finger prick) and behavioral data (e.g., fruit and vegetable consumption). In a small group of two to three students, brainstorm the following:
   1. What are some potential ethical concerns study participants may raise when considering participating in this study?
   2. As a researcher, what concrete steps can you take to ensure men that you will protect their rights as human subjects in this research study?
2. You are a researcher at a community-based research institute. You are interested in learning more about alcohol abuse among adolescents in your community, through a mixed-methods study. You intend to both distribute a survey to adolescents in all the local schools and conduct focus groups with a subsample of adolescents. In a small group, develop three *quantitative* questions to include on the survey and develop three *qualitative* questions you will use during the focus group. Discuss the benefits and limitations to learning more about alcohol abuse using each strategy (qualitative vs. quantitative).
3. In a small group, think back to the events of the past 24 hr. Think specifically about decisions you made during this time period related to (a) what you chose to eat, (b) how many hours you slept, and (c) how you dressed. Discuss what prompted you to make these decisions, namely to what extent (a) traditional knowledge, (b) knowledge from authority, and (c) experiential knowledge influenced your decision-making.