

5 ethical principles of psychology

5 Ethical Principles of Psychology: A Comprehensive Guide

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Editor: Dr. Michael Harris, PhD, edited this report. Dr. Harris is a professor of ethics in psychology and a former chair of the APA Ethics Committee, possessing extensive experience in navigating and interpreting the complexities of the 5 ethical principles of psychology.

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Abstract: This in-depth report explores the five ethical principles central to the practice and research of psychology: beneficence and nonmaleficence, fidelity and responsibility, integrity, justice, and respect for people's rights and dignity. We will examine each principle individually, referencing relevant research and case studies to illustrate their practical application and the potential consequences of their violation. This comprehensive analysis highlights the importance of adhering to the 5 ethical principles of psychology for maintaining the integrity of the field and safeguarding the well-being of individuals involved in psychological practice and research.

1. Beneficence and Nonmaleficence: Striving to Do Good and Avoid Harm

The first of the 5 ethical principles of psychology emphasizes the responsibility of psychologists to act in ways that benefit those with whom they work and to avoid causing harm. Beneficence actively promotes the well-being of clients, while nonmaleficence focuses on preventing harm. This principle is foundational, requiring psychologists to constantly weigh the potential benefits and risks of their actions.

Research & Examples: Research on informed consent procedures demonstrates the importance of minimizing risk and maximizing benefits. Studies on the efficacy of different therapeutic interventions highlight the ethical obligation to choose treatments that are supported by evidence and minimize potential harm. For instance, a study might show that a particular therapy is effective for a specific disorder, highlighting the beneficence aspect of using that therapy. Conversely, if a treatment has been shown to be ineffective or even harmful, employing it would violate the nonmaleficence aspect of this ethical principle. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study serves as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of failing to uphold this principle.

2. Fidelity and Responsibility: Building Trust and Maintaining Professional Standards

This principle of the 5 ethical principles of psychology underscores the importance of establishing and maintaining trust with clients, colleagues, and the wider community. Psychologists have a responsibility to be accountable for their actions, upholding professional standards, and fulfilling their commitments.

Research & Examples: Research on therapist-client relationships highlights the significance of trust in successful therapy. Studies demonstrating the impact of broken confidentiality highlight the crucial role fidelity plays in maintaining client trust. For example, research has shown that clients are more likely to disclose sensitive information and engage actively in therapy when they feel a strong sense of trust and rapport with their therapist. Conversely, violations of confidentiality, even unintentional ones, can

severely damage the therapeutic relationship and harm the client.

3. Integrity: Promoting Honesty and Accuracy

Integrity is another crucial component of the 5 ethical principles of psychology. It requires psychologists to be honest, accurate, and forthright in their professional dealings. This involves avoiding deception, acknowledging limitations, and being transparent in their actions and communications.

Research & Examples: Studies exploring the impact of deception in research underscore the ethical obligation to minimize deception and provide thorough debriefing to participants. Research on plagiarism and fabrication in scientific publications illustrates the severe consequences of dishonesty in academic and professional contexts. A psychologist who falsifies data in a research study or plagiarizes another's work violates the principle of integrity, potentially undermining the field's credibility and damaging their professional reputation.

4. Justice: Fairness and Equity in Access to Services

This principle of the 5 ethical principles of psychology stresses the importance of fairness and equity in the distribution of psychological services and resources. It emphasizes the need to avoid discrimination and to strive for equal access to quality care for all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Research & Examples: Research on health disparities highlights the inequitable access to mental health services experienced by various populations. Studies examining bias in diagnosis and treatment illustrate the importance of cultural sensitivity and awareness in providing equitable care. For example, research may reveal that certain racial or ethnic groups have lower rates of mental health treatment due to systemic barriers or cultural stigma. Addressing these disparities is crucial to upholding the principle of justice within the 5 ethical principles of psychology.

5. Respect for People's Rights and Dignity: Protecting Autonomy and Privacy

This overarching principle in the 5 ethical principles of psychology emphasizes the importance of respecting the autonomy, privacy, and dignity of all individuals. It calls for psychologists to protect the rights of individuals, including their right to self-determination, confidentiality, and informed consent.

Research & Examples: Research on informed consent procedures demonstrates the importance of ensuring that individuals understand the risks and benefits of participation in research or treatment. Studies on the effectiveness of different methods for protecting confidentiality highlight the need for appropriate safeguards. For instance, research shows that simply informing participants of their right to withdraw from a study is often insufficient; psychologists must actively ensure participants feel comfortable exercising this right without fear of judgment or reprisal. Similarly, safeguarding client confidentiality requires careful consideration of storage, access, and disclosure of sensitive information.

Conclusion

The 5 ethical principles of psychology provide a crucial framework for ethical conduct in both research and practice. Adherence to these principles is essential for maintaining the integrity of the field, protecting the well-being of individuals, and fostering trust between psychologists and the public. Continuous reflection and careful consideration of these principles are vital for ethical decision-making in all aspects of psychological work. The potential consequences of violating these principles can be far-reaching and have severe repercussions for both individuals and the profession as a whole.

FAQs

1. What happens if a psychologist violates one of the 5 ethical principles of psychology? Violations can lead to disciplinary actions by licensing boards, including reprimands, fines, suspension, or revocation of licenses. It can also result in legal action from clients or research participants.

1. Are these principles applicable only to clinical psychologists? No, these principles apply to all psychologists, regardless of their specific area of practice, including researchers, educators, and industrial-organizational psychologists.

1. How do these principles apply to research involving human participants? These principles guide all aspects of research, including informed consent, minimizing risk, maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring fair treatment of participants.

1. How are these principles enforced? Professional organizations like the APA have ethics codes and committees that investigate complaints and enforce ethical standards. Licensing boards also have oversight and enforcement mechanisms.

1. Can a conflict arise between two or more of these principles? Yes, ethical dilemmas often involve conflicts between principles. Careful consideration and ethical decision-making are required to navigate these situations.

1. How can psychologists improve their ethical decision-making skills? Continuing education, consultation with colleagues and supervisors, and participation in ethics training are helpful strategies.

1. What role does cultural context play in applying these principles? Cultural sensitivity is crucial. Applying these principles requires understanding and respecting the diverse values and beliefs of clients and research participants.
1. How are these principles relevant to emerging technologies in psychology? The principles provide a framework for navigating ethical concerns arising from new technologies, such as AI and virtual reality in therapy.
1. Where can I find more information on the 5 ethical principles of psychology? The APA Ethics Code is the primary source, along with numerous books and articles on the subject.

Related Articles:

1. "Ethical Decision-Making in Psychotherapy: A Case-Based Approach": This article uses case studies to illustrate how to apply the 5 ethical principles of psychology to common challenges faced by therapists.
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Keith-Spiegel, 1998 Written in a highly readable and accessible style, this new edition retains the key features that have contributed to its popularity, including hundreds of case studies that provide illustrative guidance on a wide variety of topics, including fee setting, advertising for clients, research ethics, sexual attraction, how to confront observed unethical conduct in others, and confidentiality. Ethics in Psychology and the Mental Health Professions will be important reading for practitioners and students in training.--BOOK JACKET.

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5 ethical principles of psychology: *Essential Ethics for Psychologists* Thomas F. Nagy, 2011 In his latest book, Tom Nagy offers psychologists valuable lessons in ethical orienteering. He begins by defining four points of our professional moral compass—competence, informed consent, confidentiality, and avoidance of harm and exploitation. Then he provides several decision-making maps and guides the reader through challenging, realistic ethical dilemmas in clinical, research, and education territories. This book reminds us that ethical practice is a career-long journey; I highly recommend it. Janet L. Sonne, PhD, Independent Clinical and Forensic Practice; Adjunct Professor of Psychology, Loma Linda University, Huntington Beach, CA; Fellow of the American Psychological Association Thomas Nagy's most recent book is replete with practical, accessible, and sound ethical guidance and wisdom. Straightforward explanations of basic ethical concepts provide a foundation on which he constructs sophisticated ethical analyses of issues arising in clinical, research, supervisory, training, and consultative settings. Compelling real-life vignettes illustrating applications of ethics codes and laws are seamlessly woven throughout the book, reflecting virtually every area of psychologists' work. This book is a gift to students and seasoned professionals alike. Janet T. Thomas, PsyD, Independent Practice, Saint Paul, MN; Adjunct Faculty, Argosy University, Twin Cities and the University of Saint Thomas, Minneapolis, MN; author, *The Ethics of Supervision and Consultation: Practical Guidance for Mental Health Professionals*

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Consideration of ethics has established a firm place in the affairs of psychiatrists. An increased professional commitment to accountability, together with a growing consumer movement has paved the way for a creative engagement with the ethical movement. *Psychiatric Ethics* has carved out a niche for itself as a major comprehensive text and core reference covering the many complex ethical dilemmas which face clinicians and researchers in their everyday practice. This new edition takes a fresh look at recent trends and developments at the interface between ethics and psychiatric practice. For this edition, Sydney Bloch and Paul Chodoff are joined by Stephen Green, a clinical professor in ethics and psychiatry at Georgetown University, in leading 29 of the finest scholars in the field from around the world. Eleven new contributors join the team of authors. They include Drs. Beauchamp, Gutheils, Sabin, McGuffin, Szmulter, Gabbard and Holmes. Since the second edition, the editors have observed several emerging aspects of psychiatric practice requiring coverage. As a result, six new chapters have been added covering the ethical aspects of community psychiatry, managed care, psychiatric genetics, resource allocation, codes of ethics and boundary violations. All other chapters have been fully revised and updated. The book will continue to be essential reading for psychiatrists and other mental health professionals, as well as of interest to ethicists, policy makers, managers and lawyers.

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takes place in the investigator's laboratory and field, there is an increasing trend toward multiple investigators and interdisciplinary research projects owing to the complexity of modern research questions. Furthermore, technology has changed dramatically and affects all psychological researchers, whether they are working individually or in large teams. With its comprehensive scope and practical guidance, this book will serve as an invaluable aid to understanding and navigating the ethical challenges that confront new and seasoned researchers alike--

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5 ethical principles of psychology: Ethical Considerations for Research on Housing-Related Health Hazards Involving Children Institute of Medicine, National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Committee on Ethical Issues in Housing-Related Health Hazard Research Involving Children, Youth, and Families, 2005-11-10 Ethical Considerations for Research on Housing-Related Health Hazards Involving Children explores the ethical issues posed when conducting research designed to identify, understand, or ameliorate housing-related health hazards among children. Such research involves children as subjects and is conducted in the home and in communities. It is often conducted with children in low-income families given the disproportionate prevalence of housing-related conditions such as lead poisoning, asthma, and fatal injuries among these children. This book emphasizes five key elements to address the particular ethical concerns raised by these characteristics: involving the affected community in the research and responding to their concerns; ensuring that parents understand the essential elements of the research; adopting uniform federal guidelines for such research by all sponsors (Subpart D of 45 CFR 46); providing guidance on key terms in the regulations; and viewing research oversight as a system with important roles for researchers, IRBs and their research institutions, sponsors and regulators of research, and the community.

5 ethical principles of psychology: Handbook of Professional Ethics for Psychologists William O'Donohue, Kyle E. Ferguson, 2003-01-23 The Handbook of Professional Ethics for Psychologists provides comprehensive coverage of topics typically neglected in books on ethical issues in psychology. Rather than take ethical pronouncements as dogma not to be questioned but simply

5 ethical principles of psychology: Ethics in Psychological Research Daniel P. Corts, Holly E. Tatum, 2018-10-24 Ethics in Psychological Research is a brief, practical guide for student researchers and their mentors to answer ethical questions and navigate issues of institutional policies and academic freedom. Authors Daniel P. Corts and Holly E. Tatum guide readers in identifying, preventing, mitigating, and resolving ethical issues in research using a unique ethical framework. Each of the standalone chapters provide real-life examples of ethical questions, a description of scholarly work on the matter, and suggestions for how to address similar problems should they arise in the researcher's own work. The book makes for a succinct and easy-to-use reference for any student conducting research in the behavioral sciences.

5 ethical principles of psychology: Influence Robert B. Cialdini, 1988 *Influence: Science and Practice* is an examination of the psychology of compliance (i.e. uncovering which factors cause a person to say yes to another's request) and is written in a narrative style combined with scholarly research. Cialdini combines evidence from experimental work with the techniques and strategies he gathered while working as a salesperson, fundraiser, advertiser, and other positions, inside organizations that commonly use compliance tactics to get us to say yes. Widely used in graduate and undergraduate psychology and management classes, as well as sold to people operating successfully in the business world, the eagerly awaited revision of *Influence* reminds the reader of the power of persuasion. Cialdini organizes compliance techniques into six categories based on psychological principles that direct human behavior: reciprocity, consistency, social proof, liking, authority, and scarcity. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

5 ethical principles of psychology: Introduction to Sociology 2e Nathan J. Keirns, Heather Griffiths, Eric Strayer, Susan Cody-Rydzewski, Gail Scaramuzzo, Sally Vyain, Tommy Sadler, Jeff D. Bry, Faye Jones, 2015-03-17 This text is intended for a one-semester introductory course.--Page 1.

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UNIT 4 ETHICS IN COUNSELING Counseling - eGyanKosh

4.5.4 Section D: Relationships with Other Professionals 4.5.5 Section E: Evaluation, Assessment, and Interpretation 4.5.6 Section F: Supervision, Training, and Teaching 4.5.7 Section G: ...

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Department ...

Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. American Psychologist, 47, 1597-1611.
American Psychological Association. (2002). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of ...

Discussion Questions for Essential Ethics for Psychologists ...

1. What process did the ad hoc Committee on Ethical Standards in Psychological Research use to develop the Ethical Principles in the Conduct of Research with Human Participants? 6. Give ...

Forms of ethical dilemmas in industrial-organizational ...

book in the field (Lowman et al. 2006), some texts or other representations of ethical issues in I-O psychology (Lefkowitz, 2011, 2017; Lowman & Cooper, 2018), and recent publications— ...

CODE OF ETHICS FOR PHILIPPINE PSYCHOLOGISTS AND ...

The objectives of the Universal Declaration are to provide a moral framework and generic set of ethical principles for psychology organizations worldwide: (a) to evaluate the ethical and moral ...

Ethical Dilemmas in School Psychology: Which Dilemmas Are ...

In the field of school psychology, ethical codes are primarily intended to provide guidance for school psychologists ... 18 ethical principles (e.g., Autonomy and Self-Determination

Code of Ethics and Conduct

a) This code is based on four ethical principles, which constitute the main domains of responsibility within which ethical issues are considered. These are respect; competence; ...

of Department of Commerce and Insurance – Missouri ...

Chapter 5—Rules of Conduct 20 CSR 2235-5.030 Ethical Rules of Conduct PURPOSE: This rule complies with section 337.050, RSMo, which allows the committee through the division to ...

THE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN ...

THE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES . OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION . The decision to undertake research rests upon a considered judgment by the individual ...

Ethical guidelines for good practice in the health care ...

1.5 This booklet lists thirteen core ethical values and standards that underlie professional and ethical practice in health care professions, and gives a short explanation of how one makes ...

Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists – CAPDA

social policy, or any other role related to the discipline of psychology. The ethical principles and values also are applicable regardless of the communication modality used (e.g., spoken, ...

CODE OF ETHICS A Framework For Ethical Practice 2002 - NZAC

3.5 Personal integrity 3.6 Social justice 4. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNSELLING The following principles are expressions of these core values in action. They form the foundation ...

Chapter 1 A Code of Ethics for Psychology - SAGE ...

Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct has been guided by the following objectives (Hobbs, 1948): ... A Code of Ethics for Psychology—5 01-Fisher.qxd 4/19/03 4:36 ...

National Association of School Psychologists Principles for ...

Psychological Association's (2002) Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct for guidance on issues not directly addressed in this code. Four broad ethical themes⁹ provide ...

BROAD THEME I. RESPECTING THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS ...

Standard IV.3.1 Application of Ethical Principles Standard IV.3.2 Resolution of Concerns with Colleagues ... GUIDING PRINCIPLE IV.5. CONTRIBUTING TO THE SCHOOL ...

APA Guidelines for Psychological Assessment and Evaluation

the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct; APA, 2017a). By contrast, guidelines are aspirational in intent; they are not mandatory, definitive, or exhaustive. They aim to ...

Guidance on teaching and assessment of ethical competence ...

1. Ethics education in postgraduate research psychology 5.1. Underlying principles 5.2. Learning approaches 5.3. Benchmarking 5.4. Assessment approaches 6. Ethics education in ...

Code of Ethics - PACFA

Ethical principles of counselling and psychotherapy 3 Personal attributes of counsellors and psychotherapists 5 Competing ethical obligations 5. Ethical standards for clinical practice . 6 1. ...

APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major

GOAL 5. Personal and Professional Development. 5.1 Exhibit effective self-regulation 5.2 define project management skills R 5.3y effective judgment in professional interactions Displa ...

ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR SUPERVISION IN PSYCHOLOGY: ...

the force of law. Rather, they provide advice on the applications or interpretations of ethical principles and values to a specialized area of psychological activity. In Canada, guidelines ...

Ethics: An Insight into Psychological Research and Practice

luated based on professional standards ethical principles, , and practices. An in- ... 2020) [5].

Psychology as a discipline that deals with/develop theories which are

A Code of Ethics for Psychology – SAGE Publications Inc

ThemanygoalsidentifiedbytheECTFtoguidethe2002EthicsCoderevision
processincludedtheprofessional,educational,public,andenforcementvaluesofa codeofethics ...

The APA Introductory Psychology Initiative (IPI) Course ...

F. Applying psychological principles can change our lives, organizations, and communities in positive ways. G. Ethical principles guide psychology research and practice. Key: A Rakel's 12 ...

Topic 5: Clinical psychology

5.5.1 One practical research exercise to gather data relevant to topics covered in clinical psychology. This practical research exercise must adhere to ethical principles in both content ...

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES of the German Psychological Society ...

B. General Principles 5 B.I. Use of professional titles B.I.1. Professional titles 5 B.I.2. Academic degrees 5 B.I.3. Reference to membership 5 B.II. Colleagues and other professional groups 5 ...

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND CODE OF ...

1997 adapted from: Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct of The American Psychological Association by Ethics/Membership Committee of The Bermuda Psychological Association 2 ...

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL – SAGE Publications Ltd

5.1 Describe the five ethical principles and 10 ethical standards of the American Psychological Association's code of ethics. 5.2 Distinguish between the aspirational and enforceable ...

Code of Professional Ethics of the PSI – Psychological Society

BACKGROUND Note that the Code of Professional Ethics does not form part of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The first Code of the Society was endorsed by a General Meeting ...

Code of Human Research Ethics - PSYCHOLOGY WIZARD

need for psychologists to use their professional and ethical judgement' (2009, p.4, h). Fundamentally, 'thinking is not optional' (2009, p.5, k). The principles outlined in this Code of ...

Code of Human Research Ethics

need for psychologists to use their professional and ethical judgement' (2009, p.4, h). Fundamentally, 'thinking is not optional' (2009, p.5, k). The principles outlined in this Code of ...

EDUCATION AND TRAINING GUIDELINES FOR FORENSIC ...

Psychologists and the Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct for Psychologists; D. knowledge of rules, procedures, and techniques related to expert witness testimony; E. attainment of ...

The Ethical Practice of Psychotherapy: Clearly Within Our ...

the ethical obligations of psychologists are unclear or when over-arching ethical principles appear to conflict" (p. 15). Ethical Decision-Making Assistance in fulfilling our ethical obligations when ...

APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct ...

American Psychological Association. (1990). Ethical principles of psychologists (Amended June 2, 1989). American Psychologist, 45, 390-395. American Psychological Association. (1992). ...

Practical Ethics for Psychologists 4e

ethical aspirations. Through vignettes the reader can see how ethical principles apply to everyday situations and can expand their ethical decision-making skills. Students as well as ...

ETHICS: CASE STUDIES I - texcpe.com

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Phone: 1 800 281-5068 Email: contpsyched@netzero.com www.texcpe.com ... uphold two ...

Codes of Ethics Handbook - te i

1. What is a code of ethics? 5
2. Why a code of ethics? 7
3. Contextualising codes within ethics management 11
4. Purpose and process of code development 13
- 4.1. The purpose of code ...

APSCoEh - psychology.org.au

6 Code of Ethics www.psychology.org.au Preamble Preamble The Australian Psychological Society Code of Ethics articulates and promotes ethical principles, and sets specific standards ...

ACA Code of Ethics - American Counseling Association

When counselors are faced with ethical dilemmas that are difficult to resolve, they are expected to engage in a carefully considered ethical decision-making process. Reasonable differences of ...

Code Of Ethics and Practice – Australian Counselling Association

5.0 Issues of Responsibility 4 6.0 Responsibility to the Client 4 6.1 Client Safety 4 6.2 Client Self-determination 5 6.3 Breaks and Endings 5 ... This Code applies those values and ethical ...

Ethical principles for conducting research with human ...

other form of psychological investigation. Ethical guidelines are necessary to clarify the conditions under which psychological research is acceptable. 1.3 The principles given below supplement ...

Ethical guidelines on supervision – Australian Psychological ...

Ethical guidelines on supervision Ethical guidelines on supervision 203 2.5. When a supervisee is paying for supervision, the financial arrangements are established prior to the commencement ...

ETHICS FOR RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY – SAGE Publications ...

Ethical Principles for Conducting Research with Human Participants (BPS, 1978; q.v.), which share many similarities with the common codes. 2.2 Ethical Considerations in Psychological ...

Psychological Association of the Philippines

generic set of ethical principles for Psychology organizations worldwide as a means to: (a) evaluate the ethical and moral relevance of their Codes of Ethics; (b) guide the development ...

Integrative Themes Assignment – American Psychological ...

Psychology explains general principles that govern behavior while recognizing individual differences. d. Name of concept/idea 4: i. Definition in your own words: ii. Explanation of how ...

Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology

ways to negotiate ethical challenges in civil, criminal, and family law cases. With this book, we strive to present and integrate the principles and standards provided in the American ...

Guidelines and Principles for Accreditation in Professional ...

G&P were updated to reference the current APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. • In 2004, following a period of public comment and approval by the APA Board ...

Code of ethics – AHPRA

principles and practice. In addition to the Code of Ethics, the APS also produced the accompanying Ethical Guidelines. While the Ethical Guidelines have not been officially ...

Ethical Consideration in Research – RAIJMR

The following is a rough and general summary of some ethical principles that various codes address: 2.1 Honesty Strive for honesty in all scientific communications. ... Matthew McGue, ...

Jamaican Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Counsellors ...

The Jamaican Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Counsellors' and Code of Conduct (hereinafter referred to as the Ethics Code) consists of an Introduction, a Preamble, five ...

Dr Jonathan Passmore Publications Library – mysgw.co.uk

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5 Ethical Principles Of Psychology

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