



Writing about an

# Ethical Framework

**Week 05**

Spring 2026  
SOWK 460w

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# The Plan for Week 05

## Agenda

- Expectations for week five
- What is an ethical framework
- Ways we consider ethics within program evaluation
- How we would write about ethical frameworks

### Learning Objective:

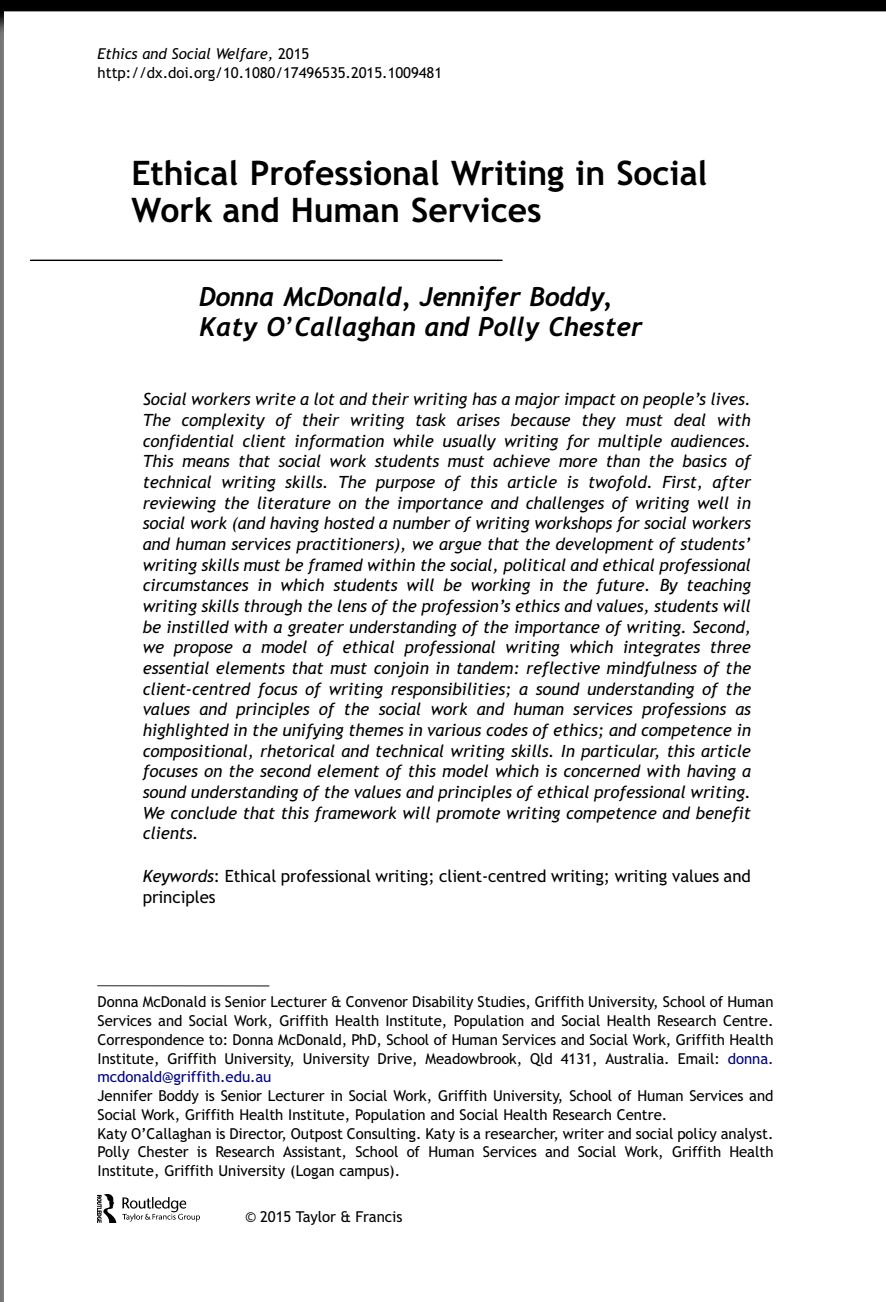
Define what an ethical framework is and explain its role in program evaluation design and reporting.



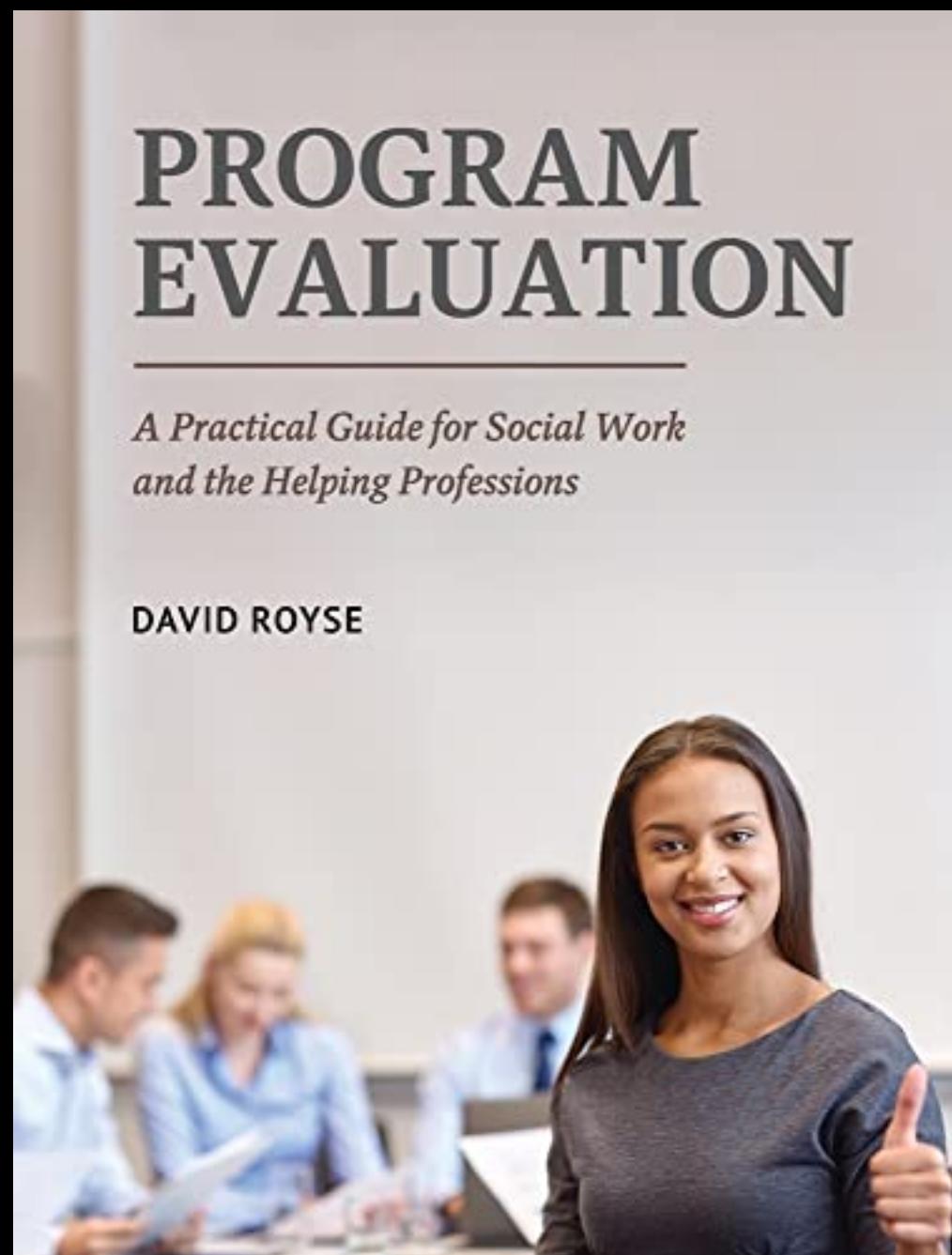
# Week 05

## Read

McDonald et al. (2015) Ethical Professional Writing in Social Work and Human Services



Royse (2023) Chapter 07  
Group Research for Program Evaluation



## Do

- Complete the reading quiz
- Watch lecture video
- Complete your first journal entry
- Consider making a comment in forums



# Ethical

# Framework for Program Evaluation

**Explain the considerations you made when designing the project.**

**Frame it clearly**

Potential questions answered

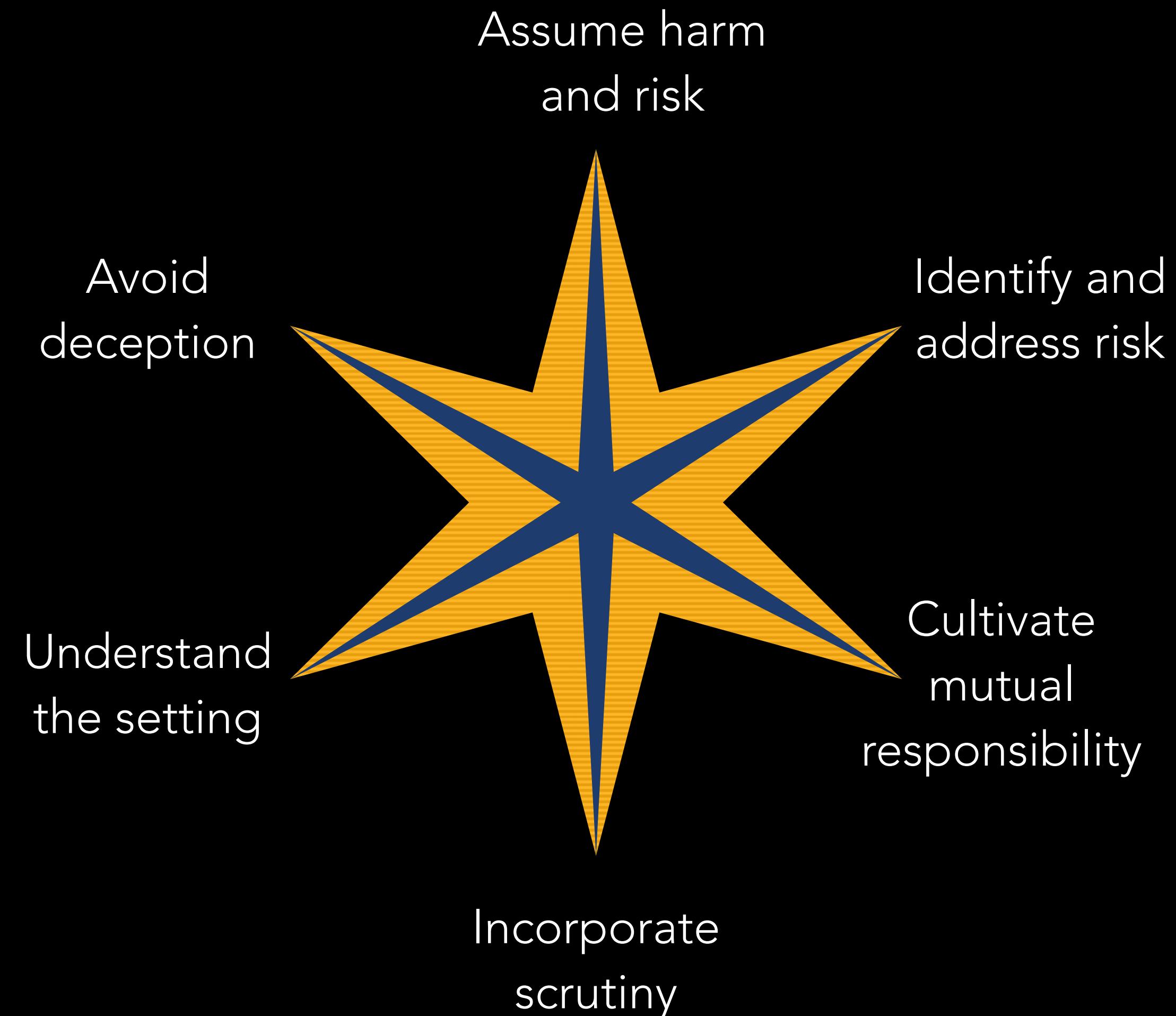
- How will you interact with clients, the institution, and subjects?
- How will you protect the rights and privacy of subjects?
- With whom will you share data, and why?
- Did your tasks/timeline ultimately go the way you thought it would?
- What took longer and why?
- What was more complicated than you expected, and why?



**Describe the ethical considerations that guided the design and implementation of the evaluation. Address how you interacted with participants and the institution, protected participants' rights and privacy, and managed data access and sharing.**

**Reflect on how ethical considerations influenced your tasks and timeline.**





# Ethical Development of a Program Evaluation

# Steps to Ensure Ethical Considerations

- 1 Plan that includes participant identification, sound methodology, and reporting plan
- 2 Identify and review IRB guidelines and requirements
- 3 Address policies and procedures required for protection of human subjects and informed consent
- 4 Submit the evaluation plan and procedures to an agency board for review and approval
- 5 Work with stakeholders to obtain cooperation
- 6 Ensure informed consent and privacy
- 7 Report to relevant stakeholders



# Focus on social service values and principles

- Social justice
- Respect for persons
- Professional integrity
- Accountability and transparency
- Accuracy, judiciousness and credibility
- Reflexivity
- Authenticity
- Sensitivity
- Purpose
- Persuasion



# Reference

Kapp, S. A., & Anderson, G. R. (2010). *Agency-based program evaluation: Lessons from practice*. Sage Publications. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781544364896>

McDonald, D., Boddy, J., O'Callaghan, K., & Chester, P. (2015). Ethical professional writing in social work and human services. *Ethics and Social Welfare*, 9(4), 359-374. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17496535.2015.1009481>