

ETHICAL BEHAVIOR



Time Required: 30-45 minutes

Principles:

- Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education, training and the world of work.

Objectives (Students will...):

- Identify steps which can be used to resolve ethical issues related to school or work situations.

GOAL: Students will identify ethical issues related to school and apply steps to good ethical decisions.

Activity Statements:

Students will analyze school scenarios and decide on ethical practices for each.

Materials:

Handout 1 – List of ethical and unethical practices.

Handout 2 – Scenarios with unethical school situations

Handout 3 – Ethical decision making process

Procedures:

1. Distribute Handout 1 – Review the list of ethical and unethical practices
2. Distribute Handout 2 - Divide students into 3 groups and assign each group one of the scenarios.
3. Have students discuss the scenario in their group and decide which practices are ethical and unethical.
4. Have each group report out to the entire group the results of their discussion.
5. Distribute Handout 3 – Review the decision making process. List ethical ways to handle each of the scenarios.

Discussion:

Why is it difficult to know what to do in situations related to making ethical decisions?

What are the obstacles to “doing the right thing?”

How factors help you make the right decision?

Additional Resources:

<http://www.goodcharacter.com/NFS/SchoolToWork.html>

<http://www.goodcharacter.com/dilemma/archive.html> - Additional dilemmas

The Ethics Connection at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics

<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/focusareas/education/>

Ethical dilemmas for young people written as dialogs. Lots to think about, talk about, write about. Also, they have a very useful framework for ethical decision making, which is at:

<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/>

In fact, check out the whole website - it's loaded with goodies.

Moral Dilemmas - Right vs Right

<http://www.globalethics.org/resources/dilemmas.htm>

A whole collection of juicy ethical dilemmas for your students to gnaw on.

Extension Activities:

Provide students with additional dilemmas for discussion. Students could be encouraged to discuss the ethical responses among classmates and/or parents. Discussions with parents could include dilemmas they faced in school and how they handled them.

Handout 4 – Sample Academic Ethics Contract (optional)

Extension Activities:

Students or student groups such as student councils can develop a school wide Ethics Contract to be signed by students and parents and may also identify the consequences that are the results of unethical behavior. Handout 4 provides a sample contract.
