

It's Not Stealing if You Pay For It, Is It?

General Discussion Instructions

In order to prepare for this assignment, READ the information contained in the document "[Salty Pawz Background](#)."

You are required to post to this discussion THREE TIMES, on THREE DIFFERENT DAYS. Please refer to the Discussion Grading Rubric for details regarding how your performance will be assessed. NOTE: Please be certain to read the entire discussion assignment since in some cases there is more than one question you need to discuss, respond to, or address. Be sure that you have answered the entire question!

Post 1: Initial Post

This posting should be a minimum of one short paragraph and a maximum of two paragraphs. Word totals for this post should be in the 100–200-word range. Whether you agree or disagree, explain why with supporting evidence and concepts from the readings or a related experience. Include a reference, link, or citation when appropriate.

Instructions

On a Saturday, Wanda goes to the local farmers' market to take a break from baking treats. While she is there, she sees a vendor with customers crowded around the stall. When she asks someone what all the excitement is about, a customer informs her that a woman who sells gourmet dog treats has just arrived, and if Wanda doesn't get in line early, the woman will sell out. The customer goes on to tell Wanda that this vendor always sells out, and that since she has started buying these treats for her dogs, her dogs seem much healthier and happier. Wanda waits in line with the other customers.

When it's Wanda's turn, she engages the woman in conversation about the ingredients in her treats and her process for making them. The woman is very nice and actually shares a recipe with Wanda for a pumpkin peanut-butter dog biscuit that has always been one of her best-selling items. Wanda purchases one of each treat from the woman and takes the recipe

when it is offered to her, never mentioning that she is in the same business. She plans to “reverse-engineer” the treats and test the new recipe out that very day.

1. Discusses the ethical issues posed by Wanda’s actions.
 2. Are Wanda’s actions ethical? Why or why not?
 3. If you were in Wanda’s place, explain whether you would have acted any differently.
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Posts 2 and 3: Respond to Classmates’ Posts

Instructions

After you have created your initial post, look over the discussion posts of your classmates and give at least two thoughtful responses to two different classmates (one per classmate). A response posting should be a minimum of one short paragraph. Word totals for these posts should be in the 75–100-word range.

Whether you agree or disagree, explain why with supporting evidence and concepts from the readings or a related experience. Include a reference, link, or citation when appropriate. The goal of your response posts is to extend discussions already taking place or pose new possibilities or opinions not previously voiced. Your goal should be to motivate the group discussion and present a creative approach to the topic.

Business Insights

In addition to feedback that you provide, students may be interested in hearing about how an entrepreneur or business had to address this issue in real life.

- Legally, according to the U.S. Copyright Office, a recipe that consists of a list of ingredients and the basic process for making the finished product cannot be copyrighted. However, the way that the recipe is expressed might be protected by copyright if it includes creative explanation or photographs. (See page 2 of [Circular 33](#).) In this [15-minute](#) video, cooking Youtuber Adam Ragusea explains his thought process on the ethics of using other people’s recipes to produce his content. Although this video is quite long, students who are interested in running their own cottage food business, food truck, or restaurant may be interested in it.
- Lynn Flinn, business consultant, talks about the benefits that small businesses can experience by maintaining ethical business practices in this [3-minute video](#).

- Greg Winteregg learned how to improve the business side of running his dental practice by hiring management consultants. He eventually became a business consultant himself. In this [1-minute video clip](#), he talks about ethically stealing customers by providing a better customer experience.
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Rubric

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Inadequate
Writing and Communication	Superior grammar, structure and organization with no typos	Good grammar, structure, and organization with few typos	Poor grammar and/or some typos resulting in weak communication	Lack of clarity, grammar is confusing, and/or many typos resulting in poor presentation of thinking
Understanding	Submission is comprehensive and detailed	Submission is relevant but not comprehensive	Demonstrates limited or superficial understanding of the concepts underlying the assignment	Demonstrates no or minimal awareness of the concepts underlying the assignment
Application and Analysis	Demonstrates outstanding ability to synthesize concepts, relates theory to practice, and uses a wide range of supporting evidence	Demonstrates the ability to analyze and synthesize, making use of relevant supporting evidence	Demonstrates limited analysis and some use of supporting evidence	Does not use critical analysis and/or fails to use supporting evidence
Peer Responsiveness	Demonstrates exceptional ability to analyze other students' work and/or asks meaningful questions that extend the discussion	Demonstrates ability to analyze other students' work and/or ask relevant questions	Comments are superficial	Fails to comment on other students' work

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