

Ethical Dilemma Scenarios for Students to Consider in TeamWork

For an additional list of interesting ethical dilemmas appropriate for high school students click on <http://www.goodcharacter.com/dilemma/archive.html>. Click on the number next to the two sentence description for a full description of the dilemma.

See this site as well: http://www.differencemakers.com/swapshop/pdf/dilemma_examples.pdf

here is an interesting ethical dilemma for older students : "The Burger Murders"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W80131s31Rg&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=weekly-newsletter&utm_source=TED-Ed+Subscribers&utm_campaign=77ced8b9a8-2013_09_219_19_2013_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1aaccce48-77ced8b9a8-51620773&mc_cid=77ced8b9a8&mc_eid=4a8d7b45d8

List of these dilemmas are widely available on the internet. Have fun!

Here is a great ethical dilemma developed by Brad Miller at CVU

1. You are grounded. Your parents are away for the evening. Friends drop by and want you to join them for a hamburger. You know that it will be at least 2 hours before your parents come home. In sharing the dilemma with your friends, they remind you that the punishment given by your parents was not fair. What choice do you make?
2. The clerk at the record store forgot to charge you for one of the CDs you purchased. You realize this as you are walking out of the store. In looking back to the register, there is already a long line. Your first thought is that this wasn't your mistake. Maybe something like this will teach the clerk a lesson about being more careful. Then, you think about how hungry you are and that the money just "saved" could feed you nicely. What will you do?
3. You find a wallet containing \$500. No one sees you pick it up. There is a name inside of the wallet. But, you don't know the owner. In fact, you're not even sure if the address is close to your house. Again, you look around and realize that nobody saw you. No one needs to know that you found the wallet. What will you do?
4. At lunch time you realize that you forgot to do your math homework. The assignment is 3 pages long with 45 computation problems to complete. Instead of eating, you start to do the assignment. A friend offers you his completed assignment to copy before class. What will you do?
5. You promise a friend that you would go to the movies with him on Saturday. After you made the promise, the most popular kid in school invites you to a swim party at his house on the same day. You're thrilled to be invited and really want to go to his swim party. But your friend did not receive an invitation. Should you cancel or uphold your commitment to go to the movies?
6. Your best friend makes fun of your 8th grade math teacher everyday. Usually, it is just when the two of you are alone. Other times, he does it when you're with friends. He even smarts off in class, poking fun of the teacher. Your response is to laugh along whether you're alone with your friend or when he pokes fun in front of the teacher or when you're with other kids. It's starting to get old, and you no longer find his actions funny. But you don't know what to do. When you mention this to your friend, he tells you to lighten up - it's no big deal. How do you respond?

7. A close friend gets a job as assistant manager of a record store. You visit her and she gives you three CDs saying, "The owner is really a jerk and the inventory system is so bad here they never know what they have in stock. Even my manager takes stuff home. You can have the CDs if you want." What would you do?
8. Now that you are a high school senior, your dad's on your case before you go out on Saturday nights. It all started when you told him about how your friends have been drinking at some of the parties you go to. He really freaked out when you told him that your friends are pressuring you to drink. You're honest with your dad and say that alcohol is ript: of any interest to you. You know if you're caught drinking, you will be off the basketball team and lose any hope of receiving a scholarship. Your dad's strategy is this - the next time you're asked to have a drink, you are suppose to lie and say that every time you come home from a party, your dad gives you a drug test. This bothers you because it would not be the truth. Do you follow your dad's suggestion? How would your dad feel if you said that telling a lie is not a way to get out of this situation? What would you do?
9. Over the intercom at your middle school, the dean announces that a teacher's laptop has been stolen from her classroom. If it is not turned in by the afternoon, a locker search will take place. You remember that when you came to school this morning, you noticed that the kid whose locker is next to yours was stuffing what looked like a laptop in his backpack. Do you go down to the office and share what you know with the dean? Do you find the kid and ask if he took it? Maybe he'll give you some money (which you really could use) to have you keep quiet. How should you proceed?

10. The Life Insurance Policy

Maria is in a hospital lounge waiting to visit a sick friend. A young man sitting next to Maria explains that his father is very ill. The doctors believe that he has a week to live at most. He explains further that his father has a substantial life insurance policy that expires at midnight. If his father dies before midnight, this young man will receive a very large sum of money. He says that the money would mean a great deal to him and his family, and that no good will come from his father's living a few more days. After talking with him Maria can tell this man is in desperate need of the money to feed his family. The man asks Maria to go up to his father's room and smother his father with a pillow. Should Maria kill this man's father in order to get money for the man and his family?

11. The Overloaded Lifeboat

Doug is on a cruise ship when there is a fire on board, and the ship has to be abandoned. The lifeboats are carrying many more people than they were designed to carry. The lifeboat he's in is sitting dangerously low in the water – a few inches lower and it will sink. The seas start to get rough, and the boat begins to fill with water. A group of old people are in the water and ask Doug to throw them a rope so they can come aboard the lifeboat. It seems to Doug that the boat will sink if it takes on any more passengers. Should Doug refuse to throw the rope in order to save himself and the other lifeboat passengers?

12.The Incriminating Email

You are the network administrator for a rather large company. You have a young family and need your job to support them. Part of your responsibility as a network administrator is to monitor the emails for the organization. Usually this just means occasionally allowing through emails for staff members that have been accidentally blocked by the spam filters.

One day you get a helpdesk request from a staff member asking for an email to get released. Normally it's standard procedure, except this time the request has come from the wife of a very good friend of yours. You recognize the name on the helpdesk request so quickly attend to the problem. As part of the procedure you need to manually open up the email to ensure that it isn't actually spam. You find that it turns out to be an email to your friend's wife from her lover. You scan the rest of the contents of the email and there is no doubt that she has been having an affair for some time now.

You release the email, but you can't decide what to do now. Your initial reaction is to call your friend up and tell him about the email, however you quickly realize that company policy is very strict about revealing the contents of staff emails, and you will certainly lose your job if your boss finds out.

In any case you know that revealing this information presents great risk, because even if you don't do it directly, there is a good chance that the dots will be joined somewhere along the line and you will be found out. However you feel that by not telling your friend you are helping his wife to get away with adultery and this troubles you greatly. What should you do?

13. The Bali Drugs Charge

You are on holiday in Bali with your wife and 18 year old son. You have been there for a week and are ready to head home. All three of you are at the airport getting ready to board your plane, when an armed officer comes around with a sniffer dog. You have all your bags on a trolley, and the dog sniffs at both your wife and your bag, and passes over them, however when he gets to your son's bag, he begins to get a bit more active.

You look over at your son and he's looking a little nervous. You know he's smoked a little marijuana in his time, but generally, he's a good kid, and you certainly didn't think he'd actually be stupid enough to bring it back on the plane with him. At first you feel angry that he would do such a thing and start planning your responsibility lecture, but then you realize that you are in Bali, and they have a zero tolerance policy on drugs, meaning your son could be jailed for life, or worse, executed, if he does have some illicit materials in his bag.

You look at your wife and realize she has come to the same conclusion and has gone pale with fear.

The armed officer accompanying the dog is beginning to look more stern with every sniff the dog takes and looks directly at you and asks you to open the bag.

You do, and as the officer begins to take things out of the bag, you see to your horror that there is a small quantity of marijuana stashed in with your son's belongings.

The officer looks at you and asks "Whose bag is this?"

You realize you have to answer, but the answer won't be easy. You see your wife in the corner of your eye, and she is about to step forward and claim it as her own.

What should you do?

14. The Plagiarised Report

You are an English teacher at a high school. One of your pupils is a very bright and gifted girl, whom you have always enjoyed teaching. She has always achieved A grades throughout her school years, and is now in her final year and getting ready to graduate. Unfortunately she has been very ill this term, and missed several weeks of schooling. She has just turned in a report which is worth 40% of her final grade, but you realise that she did not write it herself – she has copied a report found online and tried to pass it off as her own work.

If you report her plagiarism to the school authorities it will be entered on her permanent record and she will no longer be eligible to attend the prestigious university that she has dreamed of attending all through high school. If you refuse to accept the report, her final mark will be very poor and may harm her chances of being chosen for this university. If you mark the paper as though you believed it was her own work, she will do very well, and stand every chance of getting her desired university place.

What should you do?