

EDP: Location Tracking ID Cards

EDP = Ethical Dilemma Prompt

Your school administration is proposing a new system to enhance attendance tracking and accountability on campus. This system involves embedding a small, passive GPS tracker within all student ID cards. This technology would allow the school to monitor student presence only while they are physically on school grounds during regular school hours. The stated goals are to obtain more accurate attendance records, quickly locate students in case of emergencies, better understand student movement patterns to improve campus resource allocation, and ultimately ensure that public funds allocated for education are being utilized effectively by minimizing class skipping. The administration emphasizes that this data would be anonymized for broad statistical analysis and only accessed for individual students in specific situations, such as unexplained absences or safety concerns. They argue that students who are attending their classes and are where they are supposed to be on campus have nothing to fear from this system.

1. Prior to discussion: Draw a horizontal line most of the way across your page with "Agree" on the left side of the line, "Disagree" on the right side of the line, and "Neutral/Undecided" in the center. This is a scale, where the further left you are the more completely you agree and the more right you are the more completely you disagree.
2. Take a stance: Mark where you sit on this line - you are not allowed to be completely neutral, instead acknowledge that you likely have a bias/leaning towards 1 side slightly more than the other. Consider the logic from both sides of the argument and from different perspectives (don't assume your perspective as a student is the only valid perspective, but also acknowledge that your perspective is important).
3. Come up with at least 3 reasons why this technology should be supported in schools and why it might be good for students (think from an administrator's, teacher's, or parent's perspective - get out of your shoes). Defend your reasoning.
4. Come up with at least 3 reasons why this technology should be opposed in schools and why it might be bad for students. Defend your reasoning.
5. Draw a horizontal line most of the way across your page with "Agree" on the left side of the line, "Disagree" on the right side of the line, and "Neutral/Undecided" in the center. This is a scale, where the further left you are the more completely you agree and the more right you are the more completely you disagree.
6. Take a stance: Mark where you sit on this line - you are not allowed to be completely neutral, instead acknowledge that you likely have a bias/leaning towards 1 side slightly more than the other. Consider the logic from both sides of the argument and from different perspectives (don't assume your perspective as a student is the only valid perspective, but also acknowledge that your perspective is important).
7. (class discussion)
8. After the class discussion, mark your stance again. Did your position change much?