

Elliot Workbook Assignment: Activities 1, 4, and 5

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BUS 610: Managerial Thought and Ethical Implications

Professor Hallcom

October 19, 2020

The five most important values to me is being accepting, forgiving, kind, open-minded, and respectful. These characteristics are imperative for one to obtain because they embody an individual who is well-rounded and genuine. My close friends and family have all or at least almost five of these traits, and that is why I remain close to them, and we have a healthy relationship. Being accepting is important because others have to be able to accept you for who you are no matter your demographic, sexual orientation, or persona. Forgiving is next because in relationships, either romantic or friendly, one it is important to be understanding towards one's mistakes. We are all human and make sometimes may not make the best decisions, it is important to forgive and not hold grudges, especially to ones who are closest to us. Being kind is also a crucial trait, because when being nice to other it reflects how you want them to treat you in return. Next is being open-minded, this is significant because stepping out of your comfort zone within any relationship or friendship allows growth. Lastly, being respectful is the most important value because having respect for others is the key to success, especially in our society today. It is imperative to respect everyone, no matter status or demographic, this also ties into being accepting and kind to others.

When ranking questions from completely agree to completely disagree, on a 0-3 scale, the rankings would show like this. The first question is: Sometimes telling a lie is unethical. Sometimes not. It depends on whether the individual telling the lie decides that that is the best choice, this question would be ranked a 2.5, because in some situations telling a white lie isn't justified, but it also isn't a big deal if the lie isn't extreme. However, I ranked this as a 2.5 because in some circumstances lies aren't justified at all and in majority of situations it is important to practice honesty. The next question: when I say something is right or that it is wrong, that is nothing more than an expression of my individual judgment. It doesn't mean that

the act is really right or wrong, this question would be ranked a 3. I completely agree with this statement because when trying to decipher if something is right or wrong that is completely opinionated. Some may think something is right and other may believe it is wrong, it all depends on the person, their mindset, and personal experiences. The third question is: What is right or wrong is nothing more than what people in a particular culture believe. There are no general ethical principles that exist outside of one society's or group's perception., I would rank this statement a 0. It is important to listen to one's culture and have respect for it, when they believe that something is wrong or they are being disrespected based upon their culture, they have the right to say if something right or wrong. If the situation deals specifically with the culture what they say matters and no one outside of the culture can decipher otherwise. The fourth question is: I make the right ethical choices because I learned good ethics as a child, or from my church or other authority. People should just do what authority tells them to do, I would rank this a 2 because although making good ethical decisions has a lot to do with how one was raised, authority shouldn't be followed in every situation. Sometimes it is important to not follow authority, because sometimes breaking the rules that are set before you can spark change in a system that isn't equal to everyone. This would deal directly with people who are not treated equally in society, based upon skin color, gender, or sexual orientation. Next question is: Sometimes telling a lie is unethical. Sometimes not. It depends on whether everyone should tell a lie in that specific situation, I would rank this as 1 because lying isn't justified in some situations, but in some circumstance's when everyone is lying it may be justified. Question six is: If an action harms an innocent person, it is unethical, this would be ranked a 3. I completely agree with this statement because if an action is ever hurting or putting someone in danger it is never justified. It is important to make decisions that do not cause harm to others. Next question is 7,

which is: If an action causes harm to anyone, it is probably not the best choice, no matter what benefits are achieved, this would be ranked a 3. This is similar to question six because causing harm to others is not ethical at all, especially if it is for the benefit of someone else. Being harmful to others is not the way to go about solving any situation. The next question is 8, which is: One should never intentionally cause another person harm, which would also be ranked a 3 because no one should ever feel like they have to cause harm to someone else. In no situation is this justified whatsoever, especially if it is intentional, that makes the decision even worse. Next is question nine, which is: It is possible to find solutions that meet the needs of everyone involved, this would also be ranked a 3. Being able to compromise with every party that is involved in a situation is an extremely important trait to maintain. Finding a way to solve a problem that caters to every party is may be difficult but it can be executed in almost every situation. Next is question 10, which is: The ends do not justify the means, which would be ranked a 3 as well. Even though one may be committing actions that are fraudulent in order to eventually come to a somewhat “noble” result, the rode of getting there was not pure or just. Nonetheless, this statement stands true, because to get to where one wants to go, they do not have to choose a route that is unethical. Next is question 11, which is: In a family, the best thing to do is usually to give every child equal treatment, this statement would be ranked a 3. It is imperative in every household to raise each child the same. If this statement is no executed hen raising children it can cause harm to the child when they reach adulthood, and also put a strain on their relationship with their parents or whoever raised them. Next question is twelve, which is: In this world, people are entitled to what they earn, I would rank this statement a 2 because although one is entitled to what they earn it is also important to give in our society as well. Even though one may be entitled to their earnings and can do whatever they please with it, they may

also have obligations as far as feeding their family or paying bills. Most importantly, when also being successful, it is important to give back to the less fortunate and people who may not have the same financial freedom. Next is question thirteen which is: Scholarship money should be based on merit, which I would also rank a 3, because when earning a scholarship, one should obtain all of the qualifications to earning the scholarship. Next is question 14: Scholarship awards should not be based on need, which I would rank as a 0. Some people may have all the qualifications to earning a scholarship but they don't have the financial stability to be able to attend the school or all the other aspects that come with attending college. They need help from scholarships or FASFA more than other students do. The last question is 15, which is: A person's primary goal should be personal development rather than caring for others, I would rank this as a 2, because although one should be mindful of assisting others, it is important to put yourself, your future and your growth first before anyone else.

I would say that I am more of a relativist thinker, because I believe that individual's perception of reality is shaped solely based upon their culture, experiences, and the circumstances that they have dealt with. Not every has the same outlooks on society, we all come from different backgrounds and some of us are raised very different, meaning that we all have an idea about reality and situations. As far as how idealistic I am I would say, that I am to a certain extent. I am not a perfectionist and I don't have one specific goal or mission that I am trying to accomplish, I feel that most ideas or problems will be solved if we are all working together to combat them. I lean more towards an ethics of justice, because justice for all people no matter their demographic, gender, or sexual orientation is very important to me, I feel that everyone should feel this way. Specifically, in the society that we are living in today, it is crucial that justice and equality is a priority to everyone. With strength in numbers, we will have a greater

chance at receiving justice. My answers to these three questions have reflected my decision making because I think more about how we can help others and less about myself in most situations. I have seen and experienced many situations where people could've been doing a lot better in life if they just had help from those above them or just someone to point them in the right direction. My current job does not reflect my outlook on my ethical opinions; however, in the future I would want it to. I handle conflict in the best way I see possible if I ever feel like I am being disrespected I will not tolerate the treatment. Although I will stand my ground, I refuse to match disrespect with disrespect.

References

Elliott, D. (2008). *Ethical challenges: Building an ethics toolkit*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse.