

**Nyack College – School of Business and Leadership  
Master of Business Administration**

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Course Location: Online

***Ethical Challenges Workbook, Activity #16***

**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORSHIP:**

I certify that I am the author of this paper and that any assistance I receive in its preparation is fully acknowledged and disclosed in this paper. I have also cited any sources from which I used data, ideas, or works, either quoted directly or paraphrased. I also certify that this paper was prepared by me specifically for this course/program.

Student's E-Signature:

**X**

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Professor Comments:

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## Week One

### Activity #1

#### Activity #1

#### A Personal Inventory of Values

Choose your five most important values and rank them from the most important to least important. It is okay to have ties! It's okay to include more than five or to choose fewer or to add other values. It is a list of *your* important values.

- |                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Ambition                | — |   |
| 2. Achievement             | — |   |
| 3. Animals                 | — |   |
| 4. Calmness                | — |   |
| 5. Change                  | — |   |
| 6. Charity                 | — |   |
| 7. Community               | — | 5 |
| 8. Companionship           | — |   |
| 9. Economic stability      | — | 3 |
| 10. Environment            | — |   |
| 11. Family                 | — | 2 |
| 12. Forgiveness            | — |   |
| 13. Friendship             | — | 1 |
| 14. Geographical Location  | — | 4 |
| 15. Health                 | — |   |
| 16. Honesty                | — |   |
| 17. How others perceive me | — |   |
| 18. Independence           | — |   |
| 19. Intelligence           | — |   |
| 20. Love                   | — |   |
| 21. Making Money           | — |   |
| 22. Religion               | — |   |
| 23. Service to Others      | — |   |
| 24. Stability              | — |   |
| 25. Vulnerability          | — |   |

**Something for the Toolkit:** The more you know what is important to you, the easier it is to make choices that best reflect those values. When you know what you value, you can explain your choices to self and others. Knowing your values gives you the opportunity to re-evaluate your choices to see if they still want. You are always...

## Activity #4

Ethical Challenges: Building an Ethics Toolkit

### Activity #4

#### Variations in Ethical Intuitions

Read through the following statements carefully and decide how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement. Score the following statements using this scale:

Completely disagree - 0  
Somewhat disagree - 1

Somewhat agree - 2  
Completely agree - 3

(Feel free to choose half points if you consider yourself somewhere in between or to give minus or plus points if you REALLY feel strongly.)

1. Sometimes telling a lie is unethical. Sometimes not. It depends on whether the individual telling the lie decides that that is the best choice. 2
2. 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. 1
3. 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. 1.3
4. 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. 0
5. Sometimes telling a lie is unethical. Sometimes not. It depends on whether everyone should tell a lie in that specific situation. 2

Total for 1-5 8

6. If an action harms an innocent person, it is unethical. 1
7. If an action causes harm to anyone, it is probably not the best choice, no matter what benefits are achieved. 1
8. One should never intentionally cause another person harm. 0
9. It is possible to find solutions that meet the needs of everyone involved. 0
10. The ends do not justify the means. 1

Total for 6-10 3

11. In a family, the best thing to do is usually to give every child equal treatment. 2
12. In this world, people are entitled to what they earn. 0
13. Scholarship money should be based on merit. 1
14. Scholarship awards should not be based on need. 2
15. A person's primary goal should be personal development rather than caring for others. 1.5

Total for 11-15 6.5

## **Activity #5**

### **My Ethical Institutions – A 10-Minute Essay**

I feel that there is a superior ethical correctness, but I would describe myself as someone who often takes into account the circumstances in which decisions are made. Accordingly, I am rather relativistic. In terms of idealism, I think that this should be the role model after you act, if possible. However, I am aware of the fact that there are situations where lying, for example, is much more useful than the fact that the lie causes harm. Up to a certain point I rather count myself on the side of the ethics of justice. However, I am against the death penalty in general. My point of view is that I am open for decisions of others that I cannot understand 100% at first. I am aware that different motives can lead to different decisions. I am convinced that the death penalty should not be the goal of any society and therefore should not be part of the law. On the other hand, I can also understand when, for example, the father of a sexually abused child takes the perpetrator to justice. Since I am not currently engaged in any other activity besides my studies, I am not involved in moral conflicts here. During my apprenticeship, however, it happened more often that superiors required me to tell a lie to the client in order to explain a poor service.

## **Week Two**

### **Activity #11**

#### **A. Law & Ethics**

1. To inform the authorities that I have moved
2. To help an elderly person in everyday life, for example when crossing a street.
3. To intentionally keep defects secret when selling an item.

#### **B. Ethics & Economics**

1. To get cheap clothes that were produced under bad conditions
2. To be friendly and respectful to each and everyone

3. To be hard working and friendly to me

#### C. Ethics & Self-Interest

1. To have the desire to look good and therefore do workouts
2. To work for a good cause like community work
3. Helping my grandmother when she needs me

#### D. Ethics & Religion

1. To pray
2. -
3. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's (Tenth Commandment).

#### E. Ethics & Opinion

1. Giving homeless people money is not going to help them a lot.
2. Tip the waiter
3. Helping elderly persons to have fulfilled and happy life.

#### **Activity #12**

1. The origin of the problem is, that the man wants to do something good but it turns out that his action is against the law. From an ethical standpoint he did something good, without really harming someone else. The law says different as it is forbidden. The law therefore secures the interest of the state as it brings money to the state treasury. The man gave some of his money to prevent the others from having give (more) money to the state. Considering the citizens as one party and the state as the other, it was beneficial for the man and his party to do so. His behavior was definitely not driven from self-interest. He expressed some kind of charity through his action. I appreciate what he did, but would not do the same.

2. The problem in that case seems to be, that there is no obvious line between privacy and public. Considering ethics, the picture should not have been spread all over the country.

As the picture has been printed and it is not said that it was forbidden, the action was allowed from a legal standpoint. The printing of the picture seems to be driven from an economic and self-interested point of view. With the picture being that intense it made sure that the article got read which increased the newspapers reach. Honestly, I am not aware of the connection that might have to religion but in my opinion, without knowing the picture, it seems like the newspaper crossed a line.

3. The case illustrates that a public school is not giving everyone the same opportunity to come together. The school's action seems to not be very ethical. The reason for this might be that all religious activities are not allowed on campus and meditation does not count as one. I cannot find a point where the decision of the school violates the law, but maybe there is as I am not an expert. From an economical view there seems to be nothing that influenced the decision. The school might have decided to act like this because they thought that having no religious activities on the campus might secure that everyone feels welcome, instead it seems to lead to the opposite.

4. The origin of this debate or problem is the connection that children have with their biological parents and their foster parents and that it is hard to say with certainty with whom the bond is bigger. Taking ethics into account it seems like both positions can be viewed as right. Therefore, it is impossible to decide which one is right with the given information. As the court decided to return the child to its biological parents it is obvious that the role of them is seen as very important, even if their children lived at another place for some years. I do not believe that economic reasons were taken into account when making the decision. The interest that the parties have are quite obvious as two parties want to have the child with them, the court wants to respect the law and while doing that securing that the child gets the best possible conditions to live a good life. In my opinion the most important point of view is the one of the child (considering the age and if they are able to articulate their opinion). Religion

seems not to be very important in this case, as the love of (both) parents is independent of their religion.

Week Three

Activity #16

Activity #16

# taken from  
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Part I  
Practice with Conceptualization

For each of the following, identify one or more moral rule violations. Determine if there is a responsible moral agent. Don't worry about whether the harm is justified or not.

SCENARIO	HARMS CAUSED	RESPONSIBLE MORAL AGENT
1. A drunk driver injured a pedestrian.	2. 9.	diivel
2. A picture that you find embarrassing appears without your permission on the front page of the newspaper.	2. 9.	Journalist/ (Newspaper)
3. Despite Mary's agreement to be faithful to John, she is dating someone else.	2. 6. (8.)	Mary (don't marry her)
4. The hurricane destroyed the building and inventory of Matt's store.	(1.) 2. 4. 5.	—
5. Pat told Sue that there were no plans for her birthday even though a surprise party was planned for her.	2. 5. 6. 7.	Pat

III. Can the action be justified?

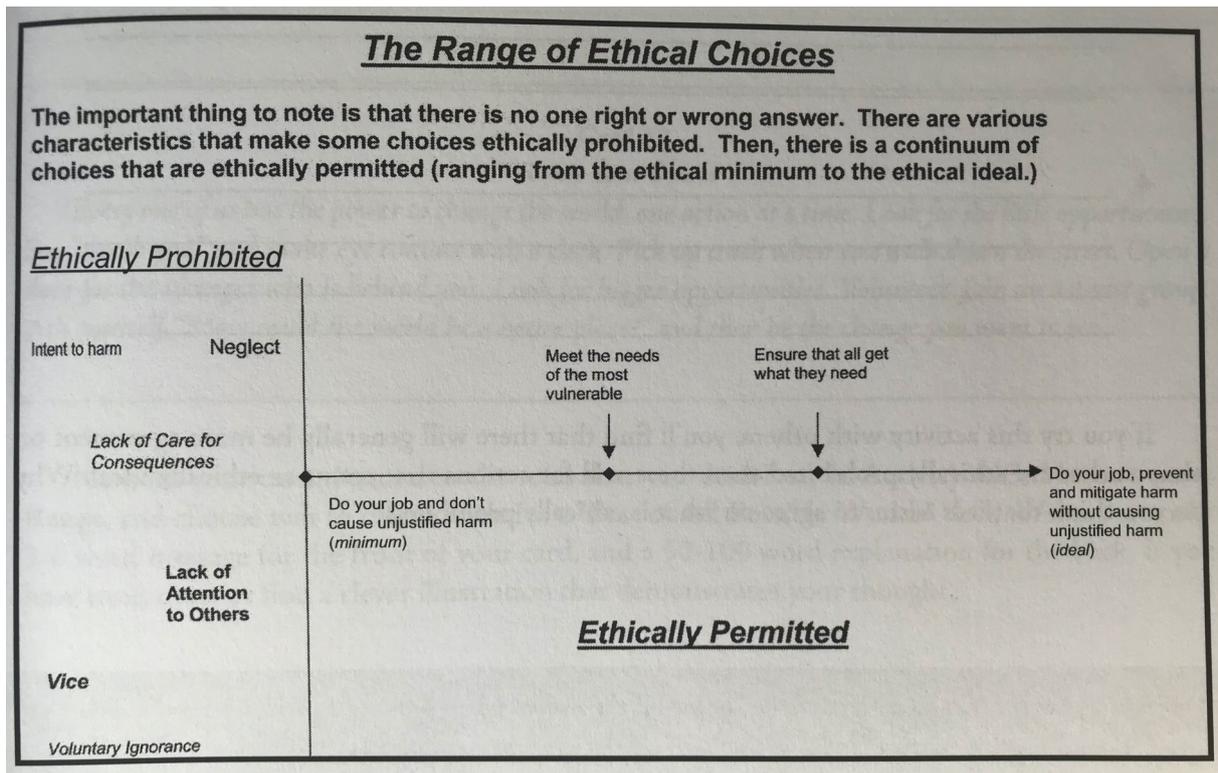
1. Does the agent's RRR provide special expectations or privileges that justify the harm?
2. Is harm being avoided or prevented that justifies the harm caused?
3. Are benefits being promoted that justify the harm caused?
4. Are there alternative actions that are ethically permitted that could achieve the same end without causing harm or by causing less harm?
5. What would your moral hero do?
6. If there are people of unequal power involved, have you chosen an action that cares best for the most vulnerable?

Part II

Practice with Justification and Alternatives

Now, consider if the harm is justified or not. If you are not sure, determine under which conditions the harm would be justified and when it would not.

SCENARIO	HARMS CAUSED	JUSTIFIED?
1. A drunk driver injured a pedestrian.	2. 9.	no
2. A picture that you find embarrassing appears without your permission on the front page of the newspaper.	2. 9.	not sure. The picture could stop others from doing the same "mistake".
3. Despite Mary's agreement to be faithful to John, she is dating someone else.	2. 6. (8.)	no
4. The hurricane destroyed the building and inventory of Matt's store.	(1.) 2. 4. 5.	no
5. Pat told Sue that there were no plans for her birthday even though a surprise party was planned for her.	2. 5. 6. 7.	yes



**Ethically Prohibited:**

**Intend to harm:** Hit your children

**Neglect:** Not telling others that there is danger coming up

**Lack of Care for Consequences:** Driving drunken

**Lack of Attention to Others:** Being selfish

**Vice:** Engage in human trafficking

**Voluntary Ignorance:** Not handing in your paper in time while one knows the time it should be done

**Ethically Permitted:**

**Do your job and don't cause unjustified harm (minimum):** Do the thing you are told to do, while you know that doing a bit more would be very helpful.

**Meet the needs of the most vulnerable:** Helping people who are themselves in bad situations.

**Ensure that all get what they need:** Start eating as soon as everyone on the table is fine to start.

**Do your job, prevent and mitigate harm without causing unjustified harm (**

**ideal):** As a coach to make sure that everyone's nutrition is good, everyone's

stretching and behaving polite while being honest.