

Assignment (or Activity) title: Foundations of Ethical Behavior

University: Notre Dame

Faculty: Brian Levey

Details about the audience and course context

- How many students are in the class?: 27
- What is the teaching modality (in person, virtual, hybrid)?: in person
- What grade level/year are the majority of students?: mostly sophomores, but some first years
- Where does this course fall in the curriculum? (Is it in the core or organized within a particular course of study?): 1.5 credit class required of all business majors
- What virtues are integrated into the course: in connection with resolving an ethical dilemma as homework for most class sessions, I asked students to focus especially on virtues like integrity, empathy and courage

Assignment/ Activity

- What are students doing?: For most class sessions, I assigned as homework an ethical dilemma from the textbook. I asked students to apply a decision making model to arrive at an answer, focusing especially on virtues like integrity, empathy and courage. We then reviewed the homework in class. Here's the model:
 - Determine the Facts – What, Who, Where, When, How
 - What do we know or need to know, if possible, that will help define the problem?
 - Define the Ethical Issue
 - Make sure precisely what the issue is, e.g., conflict of interest
 - Identify Major Principles, Rules, Values
 - E.g., honesty, respect for persons [emphasizing integrity, empathy and courage this time around]
 - Specify the Alternatives
 - List the major alternative courses of action, including those that represent some form of compromise or point between simply doing or not doing something
 - Assess the Consequences
 - Identify short and long term, positive, and negative consequences for the major alternatives.
 - Including impact on stakeholders
 - Make Your Decision
 - Balance the consequences against your primary principles or values and select the alternative that best fits

