

Ethics Session Notes

Four Steps

1. **Identify:** Ask students to identify the dilemma, and who is involved. Is the issue a concern about bullying? Is someone's privacy at stake? Who are the different people involved?
2. **Feel:** Encourage students to step into the shoes of each of the people involved in the dilemma. How do they think each person might be feeling?
3. **Imagine:** Brainstorm ideas for possible actions and responses.
4. **Say:** Once students have narrowed in on a course of actions they'd actually take in a scenario, they can practice or plan out a response that feels authentic and realistic.

Five Lenses

Definitions

1. **Utilitarian:** The ethical choice is the action that results in the greatest good for the greatest number.
2. **Rights:** The ethical choice is the action that respects the rights of individuals.
3. **Fairness/Justice:** The ethical choice is the action that treats everyone the same way without demonstrating favoritism or discrimination.
4. **Common Good:** The ethical choice is the action that respects and values individuals' rights to pursue their own goals, while recognizing and furthering those goals shared in common.
5. **Virtue:** The ethical choice is the action that promotes the development of character within the individual and their community.

Five Lenses Example

Ethical Dilemma: Is it ethical for a teacher to post on social media screenshots of virtual classes that show students' likenesses and names?
Why or why not?

Let's run through what you would need to consider prior to deciding if it's okay to post the screenshots. Use each of the five frameworks as a lens.

Utilitarian: What are your options? [To post. Not to post. Get permission to post. Blur names and/or faces.] Who is affected by each choice? [Benefits and harms of each.] Which option produces the most benefit and the least harm? [That's what you choose.]

Rights: People have the right to expect that their privacy will be respected. Does posting the screenshots respect these students' right to privacy?

Fairness/Justice: Would the posting of the screenshots be fair to everyone involved? Could it place a burden on anyone?

Common Good: Which is more important—the individual teacher's desire to promote the class by posting the screenshot or the students' right to have their privacy protected?

Virtue: What kind of person do I want to be? Do I want to put my needs before those of my students?

Ethics and Non-AI Technologies

Ethical Dilemma: ABC Middle School has a program for a specific group of students. Ms. Anderson writes an email to all the parents (and caretakers) of the program. When sending the email, she puts all the parent emails on the same line, with none of them as a blind carbon copy (BCC). Parents can therefore see other parents' email addresses — and thus, possibly identify other students in that program.

Four Steps Discussion Questions

1. What is the potential concern and who would be impacted by it?
2. How might each person be feeling?
3. Brainstorm ideas for possible actions and responses.
4. What course of action seems most appropriate and what would a response look like?

Ethics and AI Technologies

Ethical Dilemma: A large urban high school installed facial recognition software to be used for campus security in lieu of identification cards. The software is based on artificial intelligence algorithms that have been tested primarily on white faces. The software is known to be less accurate when it comes to other racial groups. It is also particularly bad at recognizing and distinguishing children's faces. However, the system was already purchased with grant money, was very expensive, and it will supposedly be more secure than having students and faculty show ID cards each time they come into school. Since the system was launched, there have been problems. There is always a teacher standing by at the beginning of school to observe students as they walk through the scanner. On one day, Mr. Carter observes several students of color, Bailey, Rico, Jackson, and Jen, being misidentified and stopped by security.

Five Lenses Discussion Points:

1. **Utilitarian:** What are your options? [To use. Not to use. Allow students/teachers to continue to use ID cards] Who is affected by each choice? [Benefits and harms of each.] Which option produces the most benefit and the least harm? [That's what you choose.]
2. **Rights:** People have the right to expect that their privacy will be respected. Does use of the facial recognition software respect these educators' and students' right to privacy?
3. **Fairness/Justice:** Would use of the facial recognition software be fair to everyone involved? Could it place a burden on anyone?
4. **Common Good:** Which is more important—the school's desire to promote building security or the educators' and students' right to have their privacy protected?
5. **Virtue:** What kind of person do I want to be? Do I want to put my concerns about campus safety before those of my students?