

# **Ethics & Decision Making Workbook**

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This workbook will serve as an introduction to the Ethics and Decision Making (EDM) workshop. The workbook should be completed before arriving to the workshop, so during the workshop you and your peers can continue reflecting these concepts in activities and discussions. Bring the workbook with you to the workshop.

- This workshop is an opportunity to learn different ways of making decisions.
- This workshop is an opportunity to reflect on your own decision-making.
- This workshop is an opportunity to identify and prioritize values.
- This workshop is an opportunity to think about how you could use those values to make decisions in the future.
- This workshop is an opportunity to visualize the person that you want to be and reflect on how you can become that person.

Information within this workbook was gathered from "Meeting the Ethical Challenges of Leadership" by Craig E. Johnson (2009), specifically chapters 5 and 7. Additionally, Randi Korn & Associate's website.

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## **Ethical Perspectives Theories**

When considering ethical perspectives, there are a few things to keep in mind:

- Don't expect perfection from any ethical perspective. Ethical approaches, like leaders themselves, have their strengths and weaknesses.
- Two well-meaning leaders can use the same ethical theory and reach different conclusions.
- Whenever possible, you should practice ethical pluralism by applying more than one perspective to the same problem.

Ethical Perspectives	Pros	Cons
Utilitarianism: Do the greatest good for the greatest number of people	<ul> <li>Easy to understand</li> <li>Is frequently used</li> <li>Forces us to examine the outcomes of our decisions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Is difficult to identify and evaluate consequences</li> <li>May have unanticipated outcomes</li> <li>May result in decision makers reaching different conclusions</li> </ul>
Kant's Categorical Imperative: Do what's right no matter the cost	<ul> <li>Promotes persistence and consistency</li> <li>Is highly motivational</li> <li>Demonstrates respect for others</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Exceptions exist to nearly every         "universal law"</li> <li>Actors may have warped consciences</li> <li>Is demonstrated through unrealistic examples</li> <li>Is hard to apply, particularly under stress</li> </ul>
Justice as Fairness: Guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities behind the veil of ignorance	<ul> <li>Nurtures both individual freedom and the good of the community</li> <li>Highlights important democratic values and concerns for those less fortunate</li> <li>Encourages leaders to treat followers fairly</li> <li>Provides a useful decision making guide</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Principles can be applied only to democratic societies</li> <li>Groups disagree about the meaning of justice and fairness</li> <li>Lack of consensus about most important rights</li> </ul>
Communitarianism: Shoulder your responsibilities and seek the common good	<ul> <li>Discourages selfish individualism</li> <li>Foster dispersed leadership and ethical dialogue</li> <li>Encourages collaborative leadership strategies</li> <li>Promotes character development</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Evangelistic fervor of its proponents</li> <li>Promotes one set of values in a pluralistic society</li> <li>May erode individual rights</li> <li>Fails to resolve competing community standards</li> </ul>
Altruism: Love your neighbor	<ul> <li>Ancient yet contemporary</li> <li>Important to society and leaders</li> <li>Powerful and inspiring</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Failure of many who profess to love their neighbor to act as if they do</li> <li>Many different, sometimes conflicting forms</li> </ul>



## **Definitions**

Integrity: Wholeness in the quality of being honest and morally upright.

Ethics: A set of moral principles and patterns of choice that guide behavior.

Morals: Principles that guide the understanding right and wrong.

Values: A set of standards that influence behavior.

#### WHAT DO YOU VALUE?

From the lists below, sele	ect 20 values you deem	most important.	
truth	security	cooperation	hard work
curiosity	love	humor	responsiveness
efficiency	intelligence	collaboration	authenticity
initiative	hope	empathy	purposefulness
environment	persistence	☐ family	diversity
communication	sincerity	open-mindedness	strength
power	fun	resources	self-control
control	relationships	autonomy	cleverness
courage	wisdom	dependability	success
competition	flexibility	☐ trust	stewardship
excitement	perspective	☐ beauty	support
creativity	commitment	excellence	equality
happiness	recognition	teamwork	harmony
honor	learning	service	growth
innovation innovation	honesty	challenge	☐ variety
obedience	originality	profitability	productivity
financial growth	candor	freedom	competence
community support	prosperity	friendship	health
effectiveness	discipline	influence	risk-taking
☐ integrity	respect	candor	independence
peace	fairness	prosperity	patience
loyalty	order	decisiveness	simplicity
clarity	spirituality	justice	
	adventure	quality	



### **Practicing Intentionality**

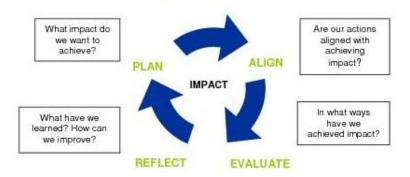
The act of self-awareness without being judgmental. The act of being in the present moment. The act of being deliberate or purposeful.

In many cases, we engage in mindless activity, whether it is driving a car, sitting in a lecture, or participating in some illicit behavior (vandalism, theft, fights, or just a mean-spirited comment). Upon reflection, we realize that we were acting without thinking, or being aware of what we were doing. In some cases, this mindlessness is harmless, but in others, it results in our doing something that we regret and is inconsistent of how we think of ourselves and what we want from life.

#### 3 Steps to Living Intentionally:

- 1. Evaluating reality clearly, to
- 2. Make effective decisions, that
- 3. Achieve your goals.

#### CYCLE OF INTENTIONAL PRACTICE



Thinking about the situation that lead you to taking the Ethics and Decision Making workshop, did you perform each step to the cycle of intentional practice?

What step(s) did you forget or skip and why?
How would the incident have changed had you completed the whole cycle?



### List the following steps in the correct order for decision making.

1	Implement the best ethical option		on	1	Define th	e ethical problem when it arises		
1	Evaluate the options			1	Monitor and assess the outcome			
1	Seek additional assistance/advice		ce	1	Identify the options			
1	Choose the best ethica	loption						
The re	st of the workbook will be	e comple	eted dur	ring the v	workshop,	so be sı	ure to bring it with	
Value		Value				Value		
Behav	iors:	Behav	iors:			Behav	iors:	
1.		1.				1.		
2.		2.				2.		
	ed Learning:							
I. WIII	at is the ethical problem?							
2. Wha	at are the options?							
3. Wha	at factors should be consid	lered in v	weighin	g the opt	tions to sel	ect the	best choice?	



4. Who should he seek assistance/advice from?	
5. What is the most ethical decision?	
6. How should he approach implementing the choice?	
7. How should he monitor the outcome?	
7. now should lie monitor the outcome:	
NOTES:	