

ANALYZE: Ethical Dilemmas

Ethics is concerned with the principles that govern an individual's or group's behavior. It has to do with deciding what is right or wrong. In this activity, you'll have the chance to explore a few challenging ethical dilemmas and answer questions about them!

Directions: For each of the scenarios below, you will partner up with a sibling, family friend or family member. You'll work with your partner to analyze and discuss the scenario and then determine what recommendations you would make. Note your recommendations under **Your Response** for each scenario, then note your partners response under **Partner Response**.

Scenario 1: The Returns Policy

Anya recently graduated and has just started a job at a large company. She had to take out many student loans to cover the cost of her tuition expenses, and though she is earning money, she is prioritizing paying off her loans as quickly as possible. The company end-of-year holiday party is quickly approaching and Anya has nothing appropriate to wear. Anya's friend Mariana provides advice: "Purchase a dress from a large department store a few days prior to the party. Wear the dress to the end-of-year party (without taking the tags off) - but be careful not to spill anything on it. After the party, return the dress to the store and explain to them that it doesn't fit you. Their returns policy will mean they'll refund your money and it won't hurt the company as they'll be able to re-sell the dress."

How do you think Anya should proceed? Why? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

Your Response:

Partner Response:

Scenario 2: Paying the Bill

Paul is a high school junior and has just finished eating dinner at a local restaurant after a long shift at his job. Usually, Paul eats at home since he uses his paycheck to help pay for the family's monthly bills. However, his shift ended later than he was expecting and he was starving. It's a Friday night and the restaurant is packed. Paul's waiter is running around serving multiple tables and clearly thinks that Paul has already paid because he comes by and says, "Thanks so much for coming by! Have a great night!" without giving Paul the bill. Paul is unsure what to do - on one hand, he could leave the restaurant without paying and put the money towards his family's bills. On the other hand, he could tell the waiter of his error and pay his bill.

How do you think Paul should proceed? Why? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

Your Response:

Partner Response:

Scenario 3: The Cheating Student

Steve is on a Varsity Sports team at his school and finds that in the past few weeks, he's had very little time to finish his homework, let alone study. As a result, he hasn't been able to prepare himself for a big test for one of his classes. On the day of the test, Steve takes the test and later tells his best friend Maya the following at lunch:

"So, right after class ended, the teacher got a call and had to leave the room in a hurry while we were still in it. I know I didn't do well on that test. So while the teacher was out, I swapped the names on the top of my test with Sarah Hamilton's! She has like a 4.2 GPA and I figured getting one bad grade isn't going to hurt her! My GPA is right on the border for being on the team, and I just couldn't fail this exam!"

Maya feels uncomfortable about what Steve just told her. How do you think she should proceed? Why? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

Your Response:

Partner Response:

Scenario 4: Password Sharing

Mariah is 25 years old and lives in an apartment with a roommate. On most weekdays, she winds down from work by watching her favorite shows through the streaming service she pays for, LUHU. One day, her roommate, Abby, comes home and tells Mariah that she was unfortunately laid off and needs to cut back on her expenses. Abby asks, "Hey, do you mind sharing your LUHU account info with me? To save some money, I'm canceling my subscription but would still really like to watch my shows!"

Mariah is eager to help Abby out. She knows a lot of people share their account and password information with non-subscribers, but she's still a bit uncomfortable doing it herself.

How do you think Mariah should proceed? Why? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

Your Response:

Partner Response: