

# Ethical Dilemmas

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You can either do this as a handout and have students discuss it or you can make it interactive. Interactive: Put a sign for each (Highly Unethical, etc.) around the room and then make each statement. Have students stand under the sign that represents his/her answer and have a few discuss why they chose that answer. After each one, educate students about your campus' policies and procedures with regards to academic integrity. You can also create other scenarios or have students pose questions for issues they are unsure about.

For each dilemma please indicate your opinion on the statement. Mark **H** for highly unethical, **M** for moderately unethical, **L** for slightly unethical.

- \_\_\_ Looking on someone else's test for help with an answer
- \_\_\_ Copying a research paper for a class you do not care about
- \_\_\_ Turning in a paper late and making up an excuse to your instructor for why it was late
- \_\_\_ Copying one sentence from an internet article into your paper without citing it
- \_\_\_ Citing a source incorrectly because you can't remember where you got the information
- \_\_\_ Paraphrasing from an internet article without citing it
- \_\_\_ Turning in a paper that you used in a previous class
- \_\_\_ Using old tests from a fraternity/sorority test file as a study guide
- \_\_\_ Writing notes in the back of your blue book before a test
- \_\_\_ Working on a homework assignment with a friend, and turning in the homework with the same answers
- \_\_\_ Having someone pretend to be you and take an exam for you
- \_\_\_ A Teaching Assistant (or Professor) dating a student who is in his/her class
- \_\_\_ Other:
- \_\_\_ Other:

You can then teach Kitchener's Ethical Principles and discuss the Ethical Checklist.

# Kitchener's Five Ethical Principles

## Respect Autonomy

It is assumed that individuals have the right to decide how they live their lives, as long as their actions do not interfere with the welfare of others. One, therefore, has the right to act as a free agent and has freedom of choice.

## Do No Harm

The obligation to avoid inflicting either physical or psychological harm on others may be a primary ethical principle.

## Benefit Others

There is an obligation to improve and enhance the welfare of others, even where such enhancements may inconvenience or limit the freedom of the person offering the assistance.

## Be Just

To be just in dealing with others assumes equal treatment of all. To afford each individual their due portion. To observe the golden rule.

## Be Faithful

One should keep promises, tell the truth, be loyal, and maintain respect and civility in human discourse. Only in so far as we sustain faithfulness can we expect to be seen as being trustworthy.

Kitchener, K.S. (1985). Ethical principles and decisions in student affairs. In H.J. Canon and R.D, Brown (Eds.). Applied ethics in student services (pps. 17-20). San Francisco: Jossey Bass Inc.

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## **Ethical Checklist**

Before you make a decision, run it through this checklist to help you make a good choice.

- Is it legal?
- Is it ethical?
- Will I be violating civil law or university policy?
- How will it make me feel about myself?
- Will it make me proud?
- Would I feel good if my hometown, or school, newspaper published my decisions/actions?
- Would I feel good if people who are important to me knew?