



Business Virtual Learning

Course: Intro to Business

Lesson: Intro to Business Ethics

April 20, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target: Students will be able to:

- (1) define and understand business ethics.
- (2) use steps to solve ethical dilemmas in business.



Lesson Starter

What is the difference between illegal and unethical?

Lesson Starter Continued

'Unethical' defines as something that is morally wrong, whilst something being 'illegal' means it is against the law. Legal implies that something is black and white, and ethical can be seen as a gray area.

In today's lesson, we are going to discuss how ethics plays a role in how businesses operate.

What is Business Ethics?

Definition:

The rules, principles, and standards for deciding what is morally right or wrong when doing business.



Please watch the video to see the common ethical issues that arise in business and how they differ from personal ethics.

Link:

<https://youtu.be/IEmUag1ri6U>



What is an ethical dilemma?

a complex situation that often involves an apparent mental conflict between moral imperatives, in which to obey one would result in transgressing another.

When facing an ethical dilemma, how do you figure out what to do? Let's begin by assuming that if there are any laws involved, you plan to obey them. In ethical dilemmas that arise in business, generally the laws established provide a minimum standard for how you should act.



Steps to Solve Ethical Dilemmas

Step 1 – Analyze the Consequences: To begin, look at the consequences of the actions you’re considering. Assume you have a variety of options and consider the range of both positive and negative consequences connected with each one. Ask yourself, “Who will be helped or hurt by what I do?”

Step 2 – Analyze the Actions: Now don’t think about the consequences. Instead, focus solely on the actions. Ask whether or not the actions are in line with moral principles (honesty, fairness, integrity, respect for others, etc.). Look for the option whose actions are least problematic.

Step 3 – Make a Decision: Now it is time to make a decision. Consider what you discovered in Steps 1 and 2 and make your decision.



Activity: Solve Ethical Dilemmas

Directions: Now that you have some basic steps to help solve ethical dilemmas, analyze the following situations. Use the steps from the previous slide to help you solve the ethical dilemmas in the upcoming slides. Please write out your responses for each step on a sheet of paper.



Activity Continued: Solve Ethical Dilemmas

Ethical Dilemma #1

Your manager enters your office with receipts from a restaurant and bar and asks for reimbursement. The manager claims the expenses were incurred while entertaining a client. Later that day, your manager's wife comes to the office to drop off his lunch and mentions to you the expensive restaurant her husband took her to the night before and tells you exactly what she ordered. While processing the receipt for reimbursement, you could not help but notice the itemized receipt included the exact items the manager's wife mentioned she had for dinner. What do you do?

Please write out your responses for each of the 3 steps (analyze the consequences, analyze, the actions, make a decision).



Activity Continued: Solve Ethical Dilemmas

Ethical Dilemma #2

While working as the administrative assistant to the Director of Human Resources, you come across the interview questions for all the open positions in the company. One day on your lunch break you get a phone call from a friend who applied for one of the open positions and received a call to come in for an interview the following day. Your friend asks you for help in preparing for the interview. What do you do?

Please write out your responses for each of the 3 steps (analyze the consequences, analyze, the actions, make a decision).



Activity Continued: Solve Ethical Dilemmas

Ethical Dilemma #3

You are an employee at a clothing store that allows all of its employees a 50% off discount after they have worked there for 6 months. As of last week, you have been employed there for 6 months and are eligible for the employee discount. Your best friend began working at the same store exactly 1 month after you; consequently, your best friend will not be eligible for the employee discount for another 3 weeks. One afternoon, after your manager has left for the day, your best friend asks to use your employee discount to purchase some clothes for a party going on later that night. What do you do?

Please write out your responses for each of the 3 steps (analyze the consequences, analyze, the actions, make a decision).



Enrichment Activity: Real Life Application

Think of a recent ethical decision you had to make in your personal life. This could involve family, friends, work, extracurriculars, school activities, etc. Re-evaluate your decision using the 3 steps we discussed in the lesson. Would you have changed your original decision? Why or why not?