



Engineering

**CTE/Work Ethic**

**May 15, 2020**



# Engineering

## Work Ethic – 2 Ounces of Dynamite

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Objective: Students who enter the workforce must be taught the “ethics of work” in a way that relates to their personal lives as well as the professional environment that they will be a part of on a daily basis.

# Bell Ringer

Do you use foul language with your  
Friends?  
Teachers?  
Parents?

# Introduction

“The power of life and death is in the tongue”. You may not agree with this statement but if you own a business you would be very wise to give some serious thought to it.

# Introduction Continued

The language used between you and your employees and especially the language used around your customers may very well lead to the death of your business. That two-ounce tongue of yours can be like piece of dynamite that can destroy. Words are mighty powerful. They can ruin a business and the people who work there. They can be used to cut people to the core and but they can also be used to encourage and build someone up.

# Introduction Continued

In this work ethic discussion, we will take a look at the use of our language and discuss what is appropriate or not appropriate in the professional workplace. The main goal of this lesson is for you to examine your own workplace language and to ask yourself if the language you use or find acceptable is of benefit or detriment to your company and its employees in any way.

# Introduction Continued

You will also reflect on the words you use with people in your life and ask yourself whether or not your tongue is like 2 ounces of dynamite. And by the way, NO, you don't have the right to speak as you please in the workplace. Let's get that clear from the beginning. Please answer the following questions.

# Resource

Here are the sites that have been provided for you. They will help you decide what your viewpoint of foul language is.

<https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/hr-topics/employee-relations/pages/profanity-at-work-.aspx>

<https://tkographix.com/i-swear-its-all-business-the-ethics-of-cursing-at-work/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32zpgLa2d5o>

<https://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/firm-management/article/12423959/profanity-in-the-workplace-what-are-employer-responsibilities>

# Assignment

You will be writing a paper for this lesson. You are to write your thoughts to the following questions. 1 page typed is the format we will use. Proper spelling and punctuation are expected. All papers will be typed. No exceptions. You are to **freely give your opinion** even if your opinion disagrees with the teacher.

Make an effort and write a well thought out paper. In the real world of work you will be paid to give an excellent effort, each and every day. Marginal effort in the workforce results in you getting fired, your company suffering the consequences of your poor effort, and customers not getting what they deserve and paid for. So with that being said, start out with good work ethic on the papers you write.

# Questions

1. What would you define as foul language in the workplace?
2. Is the use of “rough”, “foul”, or “harsh” language a part of your everyday life? Please be honest here. If it is, when did it become everyday language for you and why did you start talking this way? What influenced your use of this language?

# Questions

3. Let's look at a real life situation..... Here is the scenario..... A customer comes into your business and is very serious about having your company produce several thousand dollars' worth of product, not only now, but in the future. This customer is no fool and is looking for just the right company to make his products. He is a man of high moral values, integrity, and cares greatly about his family and local community. He is no rookie to the manufacturing environment. He has the CAD models of his parts ready to go and his checkbook in hand. He would like to have a look around your company. He would like to get a "feel" for what kind of business you run. He wants to see your equipment, wants to meet some of your employees, and he would like to do it NOW. You have no time to warn your employees. One of his professional beliefs is that foul language is not acceptable in the workplace. Period.

## Question 3 Continued

He goes around your business and starts talking to your employees. Some are using “bad” language that is offensive to him. He doesn’t say anything to anyone. He sees this language as a sign of unprofessionalism. He figures the disregard of professionalism and lack of “reigning in the tongue” is indicative of the care that will be given to the making of his parts. He decides to find another company who has the same morals, standards, and values that he holds for himself. He calls the owner and lets him know about his decision and why he made it. Some of you may say that his judgement towards the language that he encountered is unfair. You may say he doesn’t have the right to judge you and your language. You are wrong. He does have the right because he has a choice of where to spend his money. His money was eventually going to become your paycheck.

SOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO.....when you read this scenario, what thoughts does it conjure up in you as an employee? What would your response be when the boss man holds a company meeting to explain what happened?

# Questions

4. Do you think employees at any given business should be able to talk the way they want or should management be able to demand a standard in regards to language? You are welcome to disagree with me on this. Explain why or why not?

5. The one-way street Offensive language is not a two-way street between two people. A person who uses foul language is sure to offend someone who does not talk this way. However, the person who uses foul language is never offended with someone who does not use this foul language. Write about a time when your language was offensive to someone. Give the details of what happened, how it made you feel, how it made them feel.

# Questions

6. My big question to you is “WHY”? Why do people find it so normal to use foul language? Why has this become so “acceptable” to so many in our society?

7. Why do some people not care about who is listening when they are talking?  
Example-little children, ladies, the elderly.

# Questions

8. Would you give your business to a business that commonly used bad language in your dealings with them? Why or why not?

9. Describe a time when someone's language was offending to you.

## Questions

10. “A small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes great speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.”

What do you think this means? Describe a situation from your life in which you or someone else started a “forest fire” with their words.

11. Describe a time in life when someone’s words were just the encouragement you needed at just the right time. Why did the words make such a difference for you?

## Questions

12. Describe a time in your life when you screwed up in which someone who was impacted by what you did was very careful with the words they used with you..... A time when their words could have cut you to the core but they did not.

13. “The tongue is the only tool that gets sharper with use”-Washington Irving. What do you think the author meant by this?

# Questions

If you are able to watch the Edge Factor video of the Chilean Mine Rescue, use it to answer the following questions. If you were not able to see the video, use other resources to formulate your answers.

9. Put yourself in the position of the guys in the manufacturing business trying to save the miners. What do you think was going through their minds? Give lots of detail here.

10. These machinists and engineers had “regular” lives when they learned of the trapped miners. What were some things the guys might have had to “give up” in their personal lives in order to save the lives of the miners?