

Shades of Gray

Description: Often times there are no absolutes when it comes to an ethical issue. There may be many different perspectives that see things very different even though they are all looking at the same issue. It is not a matter of right or wrong, black or white. Instead, often times these arguments are very blurred when you look at all of the sides. How do you gain an understanding of the other side of the argument? How do you argue in a civil manner? How does one make a case for why their point of view is the correct one?



Depth and Complexity icons: Ethics

- Secondary Depth and Complexity icons:
- Big idea
 - Multiple perspectives
 - Detail
 - Unanswered questions
 - Rules

Product: team debate using the public forum debate format

- Skills:
- research
 - debate
 - public speaking
 - collaboration
 - organization
 - writing

Calendar:

What are ethics?		Ethical dilemmas	What is debate?	
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Mock debate		Team roles	Working on argument	
Working on argument		Practicing debate	Conducting the debate	

What are ethics?



What are some beliefs, values, and judgements that exist?

How does society teach and spread its code of ethics on the topic?

What moral principles are involved in the topic?

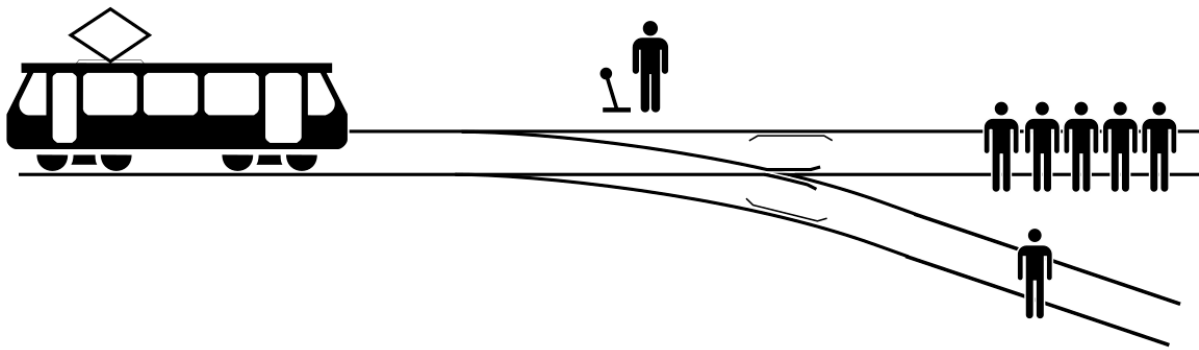
How has bias, prejudice, or discrimination affected the topic?

What do you think they used this icon to represent ethics?

Ethical Dilemmas

The trolley car dilemma

One of the classic dilemmas is the trolley car dilemma. In the situation, you are on a trolley car that is heading down a set of tracks. There are five people on the track in front of you but you could switch the track to one where there is only a single person. What do you do?



Discussion:

- What would you do and why?
- Why is there no easy answer?
- Why is there no good answer?
- What if the single person is a loved one of yours?
- What if the five people are members of the Ku Klux Klan?
- What if the single person is a small child and the five people are all elderly?

- What if you knew the single person would one day cure cancer?
- What if the five people are asking you to direct the car toward them?

Common ethical dilemmas

Should you always follow the rules?

Is it OK to sacrifice a smaller group of people to save a larger?

Should we charge money for things that help people?

Should you take care of your family at the expense of putting someone else at a disadvantage? (nepotism)

Is it ever OK to discriminate against someone because of race, religion, age, or gender?

What is our responsibility to the environment?

Why do we eat or do things we know are bad for us?

Common ethical dilemmas to choose for the debate

Is it ever OK to cheat?

Is it ever OK to lie?

Is it ever OK to tell on a friend who has done something wrong?

Is it ever OK to accept something from someone if it was stolen?

Is it ever OK to break a promise?

Is it ever OK to break a rule that doesn't seem fair?

Is it ever OK to make fun on someone as long as they don't hear you?

What is debate?

A civil argument between two or more people usually following a specific format

A – argument

R – reasoning

E – evidence

Choose a debate format

Simple Debate Format

Affirmative Opening – 2 minutes

Team Conference – 1 minute

Negative Rebuttal – 1 minute

Negative Opening – 2 minutes

Team Conference – 1 minute

Affirmative Rebuttal – 1 minute

Team Conference – 1 minute

Affirmative Closing – 1 minute

Negative Closing – 1 minute

Public Forum Debate Topic

Speakers

Time Limits (these times can be adjusted based on the age of the students)

Speaker 1 (Team A, 1st speaker)	2 min.
Speaker 2 (Team B, 1st speaker)	2 min.
Crossfire (between speakers 1 & 2)	1 min.
Speaker 3 (Team A, 2nd speaker)	2 min.
Speaker 4 (Team B, 2nd speaker)	2 min.
Crossfire (between speakers 3 & 4)	1 min.
Speaker 1 Summary	1 min.
Speaker 2 Summary	1 min.
Grand Crossfire (all speakers)	2 min.
Speaker 3 Final Focus	1 min.
Speaker 4 Final Focus	1 min.

Choose a topic for the debate

Suggestions:

Debate Rubric

Overall	Content	Presentation	Teamwork
Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes many details to make clear the point the debater is trying to make. • Has many examples designed to back up what the debater is saying. • Research is from reliable sources backing up the points being made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker presents clearly, does not read to audience. • Speaker uses professional body language, using eye contact, hand gestures, tone, and expressions to add to the debate. • Speaker is confident in presentation, showing they care about the argument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team sticks to its main argument throughout, making a stronger case with each debater. • When involved in the crossfire section of the debate, team members work together to make a consistent case for their argument. • Throughout the team conferences all students contribute and help the team to form their counterarguments.
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes details to make clear the point the debater is trying to make in most cases, but a few where it is unclear due to lack of details. • Has some examples to back up points but could use more. • Most of the research is from reliable sources but some does not back up the argument or other needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker presents clearly most of the time but every once in a while reads the presentation. • Speaker uses professional body language, using eye contact, hand gestures, tone, and expressions to add to the debate but not consistently throughout. • Speaker is confident for much of the presentation, showing for the most part they care about the argument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team sticks to its main argument in most sections, but occasionally gets off track or strays from the main argument. • When involved in the crossfire section of the debate, team members work together to make a case for their argument but not always consistent with it. • Throughout the team conferences most students contribute and help the team to form their counterarguments but not all.
Needs Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not include much detail, making the point the debater is trying to make confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker reads the entire presentation or does not make himself clearly heard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team does not stick to its main argument consistently, causing confusion as to their position.

- Does not use or uses very few examples to back up points.
- Much of the research comes from questionable sources, is incorrect, or is not present in the argument.

- Speaker's body language actually distracts from their debate, hands on pockets, looking down, or other negative gestures.
- Speaker is not confident, does not seem to even care about the argument.

- When involved in the crossfire section of the debate, team members do not work together very well, sometimes contradicting each other.
- Throughout the team conferences only one or two students construct the counterarguments, others not contributing or being left out.