

Ethical Decision-Making Debate

Category of Competencies: Ethics and Diversity Skills

Description:

This debate activity challenges participants to explore and defend ethical perspectives on a controversial issue, enhancing their ethical judgement and understanding of diverse viewpoints.

Activity Categories:

Group Activity, Debate, Easy to Prepare

Main Competencies Involved:

Awareness of Ethical Values, Ethical Judgement, Ethical Responsibility, Inclusion

Other Competencies (Different Category):

Adaptability, Empathy, Conciseness, Communicative Focus, Eloquence, Teamwork, Tolerance

Resources Needed and Practical Considerations:

A list of ethical dilemmas or controversial topics (see below for examples), timer or stopwatch, optional debate format guide (e.g., opening statements, rebuttals, closing arguments), optional judging criteria sheet for facilitators

Estimated Time:

45 minutes

Description of Activity:

Step 1: Divide participants into two groups, each representing opposing sides of an ethical dilemma. Assign each group one side of the debate.

Step 2: Give each group time to prepare their arguments, focusing on the ethical principles involved (e.g., honesty, integrity, responsibility).

Step 3: Begin the debate, with each group presenting their opening statements, followed by rebuttals, and then closing arguments. Encourage participants to consider the ethical implications of their arguments and to question the opposing side on these grounds.

Step 4: After the debate, hold a reflection session where participants discuss how they felt defending their assigned positions, what they learned about ethical judgement, and how ethical responsibility plays a role in decision-making.



Debate Topics



Social Media and Privacy

Debate Topic: "Should social media companies be allowed to collect and sell users' personal data?"

- **Side A:** Yes, social media companies should be allowed to collect and sell data.
 - Helps provide free services to users.
 - Improves user experience through personalised content.
- **Side B:** No, social media companies should not be allowed to collect and sell personal data.
 - Violates users' privacy and exposes them to risks like identity theft.
 - Uses personal information without proper consent.

Cheating to Get Ahead

Debate Topic: "Is it ever acceptable to cheat to achieve success?"

- **Side A:** Yes, it can be acceptable to cheat in certain situations.
 - Sometimes the only way to secure opportunities in an unfair system.
 - May be seen as necessary when there are no other options for success.
- **Side B:** No, cheating is never acceptable.
 - Undermines trust and promotes dishonesty.
 - Sets a bad example and erodes personal integrity.

Helping a Friend in Trouble

Debate Topic: "Should you help a friend cover up a mistake, even if it means lying or breaking the rules?"

- **Side A:** Yes, you should help your friend.
 - Loyalty and friendship are important values to uphold.
 - Supporting a friend can strengthen your relationship and show you care.
- **Side B:** No, you shouldn't help cover up a mistake.
 - It's dishonest and could lead to bigger problems later on.
 - Covering up a mistake might encourage your friend to avoid taking responsibility.

