



EduTrend Contents

P4C · ETHICS AND MORALITY · HIGH SCHOOL

Three Ethical Lenses

Apply consequences, duties and character to a real-feeling school dilemma

Ages 15–18

Level: Advanced

60 minutes

Circle and pairs · up to 30

Activity 05

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 05 · AT A GLANCE

Three Ethical Lenses

Students study an invented dilemma: a student finds a wallet with money near the school gate, and a friend suggests keeping some. Groups look at it through three lenses: consequences (what happens?), duties (what rules or rights apply?) and character (what would a good person do?). They present, then the class enquires into whether one lens is best or whether they work together.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- apply three ethical frameworks;
- compare their strengths and weaknesses;
- reason about a practical dilemma;
- reflect on their own moral reasoning.

KEY WORDS

consequentialism · duty · virtue · framework · dilemma · judgement

CURRICULUM LINKS

RE and philosophy: ethical theories. Citizenship: law and morality. English: argument.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree, add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Dilemma card
- Three lens cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 05 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Stimulus	Present the found-wallet dilemma.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
10–22 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
22–52 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Which is more important: results, duties or character?"</i>
52–60 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Recommend what the student should do, using all three lenses and answering one objection.

ACTIVITY 05 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Consequentialism judges actions by results, duty ethics by rules and rights, and virtue ethics by character.

Using more than one lens often shows why moral disagreements happen and how they might be resolved.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Ethical theories give automatic answers.” They guide judgement.
- “Consequences are easy to predict.” Often they are not.
- “Virtue is just being nice.” It includes courage and fairness.

Adapting the activity

Support

Give one lens per group.

Stretch

Construct a case where the lenses give opposite answers.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Three lenses

Analyse.

Three lenses

Lens	Key question	What it suggests
Consequences		
Duties		
Character		

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Can the three lenses disagree? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Three Ethical Lenses is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Ethics and Morality programme (high school, level: advanced). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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