

Ethical Behavior

Duty/Concept Area

Exploring Interrelated Social, Environmental, and Ethical Responsibilities

Scenarios

1. You are an hourly part-time employee at a sandwich shop. You work at night and the manager and assistant manager leave before the rest of the employees. At the end of your shift, you and the other employees make yourselves sandwiches. This is not against the company policy, because the manual says that all employees get 50 percent off all food. However, since the manager and assistant manager are not there, no one pays for the food that they make, and everyone does it.
 - Is this a right or wrong choice?
 - What are the possible consequences?
 - Would you feel guilty?
 - Are there negative consequences for doing the right thing?
 - What is your ethical responsibility, if any?
2. The company you work for is sponsoring an event, and you are volunteering to work the table for the raffle tickets. The prizes are various amounts of gift cards, and the winners must pick up the gift cards the same day. The amounts range from \$25 to \$200. A winner is chosen every hour, and they are chosen randomly. The event starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. The winners for the day are posted on a board that is displayed for everyone to see, and the last drawing takes place at 5:00 p.m.

After the event ends at 6:00 p.m., you notice that two of the winners have not picked up their gift cards. Both winners were awarded \$25.00 gift cards. As you and a coworker pack up after the event, you wait for the winners to claim their prizes. At 6:45 p.m., the venue is empty, and only people working are still around. You and your coworker decide that since there are two gift cards left and they were not claimed, each of you will take one and no one will ever know.

- Is this a right or wrong choice?
 - What are the possible consequences?
 - Would you feel guilty?
 - Do you have an obligation to make a certain choice?
 - What is your ethical responsibility?
3. You are working at a major brokerage firm in New York at an entry-level position. Your job is to provide support for one of the partners at the firm. This job is a position that has the potential for you to learn and grow with the firm. If you stick with the firm, you could move up to a full broker in time. One day, you are working late and you come across some information that, if shared, could make you a good amount of money. This would help you and your friends gain some financial security and set you up financially for your future. You have heard that this goes on all the time, and being that you are an entry-level employee, no one would suspect that you would take the risk. You feel pretty certain there is no way you will get caught and you leak this information to a few people who you trust.
 - Is this a right or wrong choice?
 - What are the possible consequences?
 - Would you feel guilty?
 - Do you have an obligation to make a certain choice?
 - What is your ethical responsibility?
 - Can you be accountable for your actions?