Ethics & Decision Making and Bystander Behavior Workbook

Student Conduct Office
Offices of the Dean of Student Life
Student Services at White Creek, Building 0071

http://studentlife.tamu.edu/sco
Definitions

Morals

*Principals that guide the understanding right and wrong.*

Values

*A set of standards that influence behavior.*

Ethics

*A set of moral principles and patterns of choice that guide behavior.*

Integrity

*Wholeness in the quality of being honest and morally upright.*

1. Discerning what is right and wrong
2. Acting on what you have discerned, even at personal cost
3. Stating openly that you are acting on your understanding of right and wrong

Steven Carter, *Integrity*
Ethical Positioning Questionnaire

This questionnaire was designed to measure your attitudes about a number of potentially related things. You will find a series of statements below. Each represents a commonly held opinion and there are no right or wrong answers. You will probably disagree with some items and agree with others. We are interested in the extent to which you agree or disagree with such matters of opinion. Please read each statement carefully and then indicate the extent of your disagreement/agreement with each item according to the following scale:

1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : 5
strongly disagree : disagree : no opinion : or neutral : agree

Please indicate your response by writing in the appropriate number in the space provided. Then total your score for questions 1-10 and 11-20 in the spaces provided.

1. People should make certain that their actions never intentionally harm others even to a small degree.

2. Risks to another should never be tolerated, irrespective of how small the risks might be.

3. The existence of potential harm to others is always wrong, irrespective of the benefits to be gained.

4. One should never psychologically or physically harm another person.

5. One should not perform an action which might in any way threaten the dignity and welfare of another individual.

6. If an action could harm an innocent other, then it should not be done.

7. Deciding whether or not to perform an act by balancing the positive consequences of the act against the negative consequences of the act is immoral.

8. The dignity and welfare of people should be the most important concern in any society.

9. It is never necessary to sacrifice the welfare of others.

10. Moral actions are those which closely match ideals of the most "perfect" action.

Total 1-10 ______
11. There are no ethical principles that are so important that they should be part of any code of ethics.

12. What is ethical varies from one situation and society to another.

13. Moral standards should be seen as being individualistic; what one person considers to be moral may be judged to be immoral by another person.

14. Different types of moralities cannot be compared as to "rightness."

15. Questions of what is ethical for everyone can never be resolved since what is moral or immoral is up to the individual.

16. Moral standards are simply personal rules which indicate how a person should behave, and are not to be applied in making judgments of others.

17. Ethical considerations in interpersonal relations are so complex that individuals should be allowed to formulate their own individual codes.

18. Rigidly codifying an ethical position that prevents certain types of actions could stand in the way of better human relations and adjustment.

19. No rule concerning lying can be formulated; whether a lie is permissible or not totally depends on the situation.

20. Whether a lie is judged to be moral or immoral depends upon the circumstances surrounding the action.

Total 11-20 _____

Values Assessment

1. Briefly Review the following lists (Self, Spiritual, Vocation, Relationships, Community) and circle those items in each area that you value. You may circle all that apply add your own if you so desire.

2. Bring this completed assignment with you and be prepared to discuss it in class. You will not be allowed to participate in the workshop without the assignment.

Values Related to Self:

- Academic accomplishment
- Academic degrees
- Education
- Intellectual growth
- Knowledge
- Achieving goals
- Affiliation and belonging
- Courage
- Decisiveness
- Affluence
- Economic security
- Wealth
- Self-indulgence
- Balance
- Hobbies
- Creativity
- Enjoyment
- Music
- Happiness and joy
- Humor
- Influence and impact
- Politics
- Self-actualization
- Religion
- Spirituality
- Personal development
- Appearance and image
- Physical fitness
- Recognition
- Self-respect and esteem
- Wisdom
- Social Status
- Addictions
- Doing something well
- Athletic prowess
- Physical health
- Emotional health
- Material possessions
- Television
- Movies
- Integrity
- Reading
- Legacy
- Dreams, goals, visions
- Fulfillment
- Contentment
- School
- Teams
- Clothes
- House
- Attention
- Approval
- Sex
- Skills
- Vacations
- Memories
- Cars
- Time
- Gardening
- Admiration
- Technology
- Love
- Fame
- Writing
- Speaking
- Researching
- Ideas
- Dancing
- Logic
- Other:_____________
- Other:_____________
- Other:_____________

Spiritual Values:

- God
- Religion
- Honesty
- Aesthetics
- Introspection
- Wisdom
- Contentment
- Optimism
- Hope
- Tolerance
- Balance
- Morality
- Meditation
- Retreats
- Duty
- Fulfillment
- Forgiveness
- Faith
- Respect
- Integrity
- Ethics
- Reflection
- Moderation
- Responsibility
- Inner peace
- Love
- Heaven
- Other:_____________
- Other:_____________
- Other:_____________
## Values Assessment

**Vocational Values:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achieving goals</th>
<th>Loyalty</th>
<th>Profits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promotions</td>
<td>Rewards</td>
<td>Symbols of success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliation and belonging</td>
<td>Self-respect and esteem</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autonomy and independence</td>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>Job security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change and variety</td>
<td>Challenge</td>
<td>Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieving results</td>
<td>Duty</td>
<td>Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>Dreams</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family-like environment</td>
<td>Courage</td>
<td>Rate of return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diverse perspectives</td>
<td>Expertise</td>
<td>Ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety of skills</td>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>Bonuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence and impact</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Respect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Recognition</td>
<td>Advancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Perks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision and goal</td>
<td>Developing others</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>Doing something well</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>An organization</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productivity</td>
<td>Dignified treatment</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>Position</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Relationship Values:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Love</th>
<th>Loyalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camaraderie</td>
<td>Sense of community</td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonding</td>
<td>Developing others</td>
<td>Goodwill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity and perspectives</td>
<td>Dignified treatment</td>
<td>Harmony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect</td>
<td>Cooperation</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community Values:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helping others</th>
<th>Volunteering</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altruism</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of community</td>
<td>Other:__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarianism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Values Assessment

2. Rank the top five items in each list with “1st” being the item you most value. Do not have “ties.” Each item should have a different rank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Self</th>
<th>Spiritual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Vocational</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Out of the twenty-five values you ranked, generate the top five things you value most with “1st” being the item you most value. Do not have “ties.” Each item should have a different rank and you should only have five listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Overall Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SOMS 482: Seminar in Executive Leadership, P. Holzweiss 2008
Values Reflection

Relist the top five overall things you value from the values assignment.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Where did you get this set of values?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Which of these is the most important to you? Why?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Do you promote this value? If so, how?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Have you ever tried to convince someone else to act on this value? How did you attempt to do this? What was the end result?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Decision Making

Put these seven steps used to make decisions in the correct order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose the best ethical alternative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Define the ethical problem when it arises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate the alternatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formulate alternatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement the best alternative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor and assess the outcome</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek additional assistance/advice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to ask yourself when trying to make a decision:
- Is it legal
- What does my gut tell me about my decision
- Would I want my mother to know
- Would I want my actions and the consequences to be on the front page of the newspaper
- Would my parents do this
- Would I want this done to me or someone I care about

Things to avoid:
- The clearly illegal
- That which violated basic human rights
- The dangerous
- The incredibly stupid
- The insensitive (to human needs or feelings)
- The inefficient or impractical
- The irritating or annoying