



Ethics Awareness

Indiana 4-H Civic Engagement Activity

Ethical Versus Unethical

Audience: Grades 6-12

Duration: 30 – 45 minutes

Overview: This lesson considers what our actions and/or words might be saying to others who observe or interact with us. Are we sending the message we intend to send as a 4-H member or a leader?

Objectives: Participants discuss the meaning of the terms “ethical” and “unethical.” Participants learn the process for ethical decision-making. Participants use decision-making skills to determine whether their card is ethical or unethical.

Materials: Set of “Ethical/Unethical” cards for each small group (cut apart on card stock)

Instructions

- Have partners discuss the meaning of ethical and unethical.
- Have partners share their definitions or synonyms with the group.

Definitions (source: Merriam-Webster)

Ethical: involving questions of right and wrong behavior; relating to ethics; following accepted rules of behavior; morally right and good. Synonyms: all right, decent, good, honest, honorable, just, moral, nice, right, righteous, right-minded, straight, true, upright, virtuous

Unethical: not conforming to a high moral standard; morally unacceptable. Synonyms: black, dark, evil, immoral, iniquitous, nefarious, rotten, sinful, unlawful, unrighteous, unsavory, vicious, vile, villainous, wicked, wrong

- Explain the practice for making ethical decisions. Ask youth what they can do to practice ethical decision-making.

To practice ethical decision-making, I will:

- ✓ Get the facts.
- ✓ Consider what is best for most.
- ✓ Ask, “Does the action respect the rights of everyone?”
- ✓ Ask, “Does it treat everyone in the same way? Does it show favoritism and discrimination?”
- ✓ Ask, “Does the action make policies, systems, institutions, and environment beneficial to all?”
- ✓ Take actions to develop our highest potential.
- ✓ Weigh the facts and ethical considerations.

(Source: Velasquez, Manual, et. al “Thinking Ethically: A Framework for Moral Decision Making.” *Issues in Ethics*. Santa Clara University. V7 N1 (Winter 1996).)

- Participants use ethical decision-making skills to discuss situations on “Ethical versus Unethical” card game.

Discussion Questions

- How do the words you speak and the actions you take affect yourself and others?
- When must you consider whether a choice is ethical or unethical?
- Can a leader make both ethical and unethical decisions?
- What steps do you think should be added to ethical decision making?

Created by Marcia Parcell, Health & Human Sciences Extension Educator, Purdue Extension – Dearborn County

Adapted for use April 2019

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
INDIANA 4-H