



## Ball State Philosophy Outreach Project Lesson Plan

**Topic:** How to be Ethical

**Time:** 45-60 min

### Materials:

- [How to be Ethical PowerPoint](#)
- Projector

### Learning Objectives:

1. Students will identify and analyze two different ethical theories.
2. Students will identify and analyze their own positions on ethics in relation to the two ethical theories discussed.

### Introduction: 5-10 minutes

**Slide 1:** Ask the following questions and facilitate a student-led conversation.

- Has anybody ever heard of ethics?
  - What are ethics?
  - What does it mean to be ethical?

**Slide 2:** Explain that ethics are the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles. Then ask the following questions and facilitate a student-led conversation.

- How do you decide what the right thing to do is?
- How do you want others to decide what the right thing to do is?

**Slide 3:** Chances are that you fall into one of the following categories! Let's explore.

### Content: 20-25 minutes

**Slide 4:** Discuss consequentialism. Ask the following questions:

- Do any of you feel like you align with this belief?
  - Why or why not?
  - Does your own decision-making process ever resemble these theories?

**Slide 5:** Ask questions only to the students that identify as consequentialists. If no students identify as consequentialists, then try to answer as a class from a consequentialist perspective. Recommended questions are on the slide but students are welcome to come up with their own questions for consequentialists as well.

- How do we know if an outcome is good or bad?
  - What should we measure?

- Happiness? Freedom? Justice?
  - Why?
- Is it okay to hurt one person to save others?
  - Why or why not?
- What if we don't yet know the consequences of our actions?
- What about intentions? Can people really be accidentally good or accidentally bad?

**Slide 6:** Discuss deontology.

- Do any of you feel like you align with this belief?
  - Why or why not?
  - How do you see examples of this in your own decision making processes?

**Slide 7:** Ask questions only to the students that identify as deontologists. If no students identify as deontologists, then try to answer as a class from a consequentialist perspective. Recommended questions are on the slide but students are welcome to come up with their own questions for consequentialists as well.

- Is there really any absolute moral rule that is true for every situation?
  - How do you know?
- What if a murderer comes to your door and asks if your mom is home? Is it okay to lie?
- Can an act be right and still cause immense harm?
  - If yes, provide an example.
- Can you detach consequences from morality?
  - How?

### **Final Discussion 20-25 minutes**

- Which of these views do you agree with more?
  - Why?
- Do you see any problems with each system?
- Which of these views do you think our society is more based on?
  - Why?
  - How might this affect your perspective on these philosophies?
- Should society be more consequentialist or more deontological?
  - Why?

