

Social Issues in Management and Business Ethics: Exercises and Activities

Exercise/Activity Title:

Confidentiality Agreement

Exercise/Activity Explanation (150 words or less):

The most rewarding classes are those where participants feel free to express themselves without being judged by others. During the first class meeting, students sign a "Confidentiality Agreement."

The confidentiality agreement includes: (1) speaking truthfully, (2) listening respectfully, (3) honoring the integrity of other participants, (4) not fixing, saving, or advising anyone unless asked, and (5) not repeating anything personal spoken by other participants outside class unless the speaker approves.

Assignment is on the following page.

Optional – Contact Information:

If interested in additional information, please contact Professor Denis Collins, School of Business, Edgewood College, Madison, WI; dcollins@edgewood.edu

Class Guidelines and Confidentiality Agreement

Professor Denis Collins, Edgewood College, dcollins@edgewood.edu

During this class we will create a "circle of trust," which educational philosopher Parker Palmer defines as "a community that knows how to welcome the soul and help us hear its voice."
[Parker J. Palmer, 2004, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.]

The most rewarding classes are those where participants feel free to express themselves without being judged by others. Therefore, as a class participant I agree to:

- 1) Voluntarily express my own inner truth, whatever I think that might be (i.e., "I think people in organizations are good/bad.")
- 2) Listen respectfully to the inner truth spoken by others.
- 3) Ask participants honest and open questions that expand rather than restricts the exploration of their own inner truth (i.e., "What did you mean when you said you felt happy/angry?" instead of "Why didn't you feel happy/angry? I would have!").
- 4) Honor the identity and integrity of the other participants.
- 5) Not fix anyone, save anyone, advise anyone, or set anyone straight; when people listen to others more deeply they tend to learn to listen more deeply to themselves.
- 6) **Never repeat anything personal spoken by other participants outside of class.**

Name (typed): _____

Date: _____