

Social Issues in Management and Business Ethics: Exercises and Activities

Exercises/Activities Title:

Ethics Awareness Journaling

Exercises/Activities Explanation (150 words or less):

Students compose weekly journal entries to deepen awareness of ethics beliefs they have regarding events that currently take place in their lives. Students make dated journal entries in a computer file once a week in response to work-related ethical issues (as an employee or customer) they just experienced or observed, and their reactions to them.

These entries entail situations where the following ethical values were either supported or violated:

- Honesty
- Promise Keeping
- Respect for people
- Respect for property

Students describe (1) a behavior experienced or observed during the work week that was either praiseworthy or blameworthy, (2) explore why this behavior excited them in a positive or negative manner, and (3) what could be changed to foster more repetition of praiseworthy behaviors or less repetition of blameworthy behaviors.

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

Weekly Journaling

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Weekly Journaling: The purpose of journaling is to deepen awareness of your beliefs regarding events that take place in your life. The most important human issue is you – your thoughts in reaction to events taking place around you. Your greatest gift to the world is your own goodness, and connecting with the goodness of others. Events you currently experience at work or school will influence your attitudes and behaviors throughout life. Students are very busy people and for that very reason you need to find some quiet time to reflect on your daily experiences. Even the President of the United States finds time to compose daily journal entries.

You should make dated journal entries in a computer file **once a week** in response to work-related ethical issues (as an employee or customer) you just experienced or observed, and your reactions to them. These would entail situations where the following ethical values were either supported or violated: honesty, promise keeping, respect for people, and respect for property.

I **WILL NOT** collect the journals during the semester. I want you to be very honest, and you are likely to be most honest if you are the only person who reads the journal entries. Instead, we will do this on an honor system, which seems appropriate for a business ethics type class.

Once a week do the following 3 steps (**one paragraph per step**):

STEP 1: Describe a behavior you experienced or observed at work that was either praiseworthy or blameworthy

STEP 2: Why did this behavior excite you in a positive or negative manner?

STEP 3: What could be changed to foster more repetition of praiseworthy behaviors or less repetition of blameworthy behaviors?

Your weekly entry should tell a story that includes an internal dialogue stating what you really think. Consider the diary a friend wanting to know more detail about the situation.

Beginning Week 2, each week you will submit a one sentence summary as part of your homework submissions about the journal entry incident that is worth up to 10 points, for a total of 70 points (7% of your grade). The following grade scale will be used based on once a week entries:

10 points: You wrote at least one full paragraph for **each of the 3 steps**

8 points: You wrote one full paragraph for **only 2 of the 3 steps**

6 points: You wrote one full paragraph for **only 1 of the 3 steps**

0 points: You did not compose a journal entry