

Moral Frameworks Chart

Overview: The following is a break-down of each moral framework with definitions (and uses) along with questions worth asking when applying each framework to a scenario or situation.

Name of Framework	Definition / Use Cases	Questions Worth Asking with This Framework
<i>Consequences</i>	This framework for analyzing ethical dilemmas focuses on the outcomes of actions. It often focuses on the total amount of "harm" or "good" that might come from an action.	• Who will be affected by this action? • How much "harm/good" will come from this action? • What is the best action/outcome for the majority of people affected by this?
<i>Inner Thoughts</i>	This framework for analyzing ethical dilemmas focuses on people's "motive" or "intention" for specific actions.	• What is the motivation behind an action? • What was the original intention of the action? Does that matter? • Did someone have (or lack) knowledge when the action was done? • How do a person's "inner thoughts" affect the rightness or wrongness of an action?
<i>Foundational Ideals</i>	This framework for analyzing ethical dilemmas focuses on "rights" or "ideals" (values) that connect to a specific action.	• What rights or ideals connect to this specific action? • How do these rights / ideals connect with a specific action?
<i>Care & Relationships</i>	This framework for analyzing ethical dilemmas focuses on a person's "needs" or "relationships" that might matter in the context of a specific action.	• What relationships are at stake? Is there anything special / important about the nature of the relationship? • Is there a priority or obligation to care for someone's needs?
<i>Social Agreements</i>	This framework for analyzing ethical dilemmas focuses on "agreements" (both spoken and unspoken) and contracts (both written or implied) that people may have with each other.	• Are there any unspoken/implicit agreements that someone might think is in play in this situation? • Are there any explicit "contracts" or binding agreements that might come into play?
<i>Virtues</i>	This framework for analyzing ethical dilemmas focuses on values, character traits, and virtues that a person might have.	• Does this decision/action go against any core virtues that someone might value? • Does this decision/action lead to the "decline" or "growth" of a specific virtue or character trait within a specific person or our society?