

Writing An Ethics Bowl Case

OVERVIEW: This document will serve as a guide so you can create your own Ethics Bowl Case! The fun (and challenge) of writing your own case will certainly improve your argument skills, writing skills, and might even win you some money if you choose to submit your case to the National High School Ethics Bowl Case Competition! The focus of this document will be to help you brainstorm, outline, and write a case study.

DIRECTIONS: After reviewing the example annotated case "I'm Afraid", review the structure of an ethics bowl case, and then brainstorm your own potential topic and begin outlining on the following pages.

Elements of an Ethics Bowl Case

Section #1	Facts / Context of a specific situation	If you are writing a "research-based" Ethics Bowl Case, you'll need to gather enough information on the specific issue (or incident) that you are researching to summarize the facts. It can be helpful to summarize, paraphrase, and cite this information from the sources you've read. This section can include footnotes to articles about the incident in question. Think about detailing the: "Who, What, When, and Where" questions about the event. Save the "Why" for the end of your introduction.
	Define Important Terms	Provide relevant definitions of any terms, ideas, or concepts that might be vital to understanding the case.
	Summary statement	End with a clear transition about WHY this issue is important, and WHY it creates differing moral perspectives
Section #2	Present Position #1	Transition and focus on one core position within this case. Here, it is focused on the claims, evidence, and moral reasoning of people who believe "A.I. sentence is quite likely"
Section #3	Present Position #2	Transition to other contrasting positions. Focus on the claims, evidence, and moral reasoning of these positions.
Discussion Questions	Discussion questions typically focus on moral / ethical considerations that will help teams understand some of the central moral issues within the case. Here are some common question stems: • To what extent is ____ morally acceptable? • What, if any, moral consideration do we owe to...? • What is the responsibility of ____ considering that... ? • Is ____ obligated to ... ? • Is ____ justified in ?	
Research	Many ethics bowl cases are based on real events, news articles, or essays that deal with contemporary problems; however, some are also hypothetical, or focused on a fictional scenario.	

Brainstorming Space

General Topics I'm Considering:	News / Current Events I'm Considering:	Moral Frameworks Worth Thinking About:
• • • •	• • • •	• Consequences • Inner Thoughts • Foundational Ideals • Care & Relationships • Social Agreements • Virtues

Research Space

Final Topic I'm Researching:	
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Source #1

Title:		Author	
Summary:			
Position(s) described in article:			
How will this help me write my case?			

Source #2

Title:		Author	
Summary:			
Position(s) described in article:			
How will this help me write my case?			

Your Case Outline

Title of Your Case	
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Facts / Context of a specific situation	
Definitions of Important Terms	
Summary statement	

Position 1's Claims:
Position 1's Evidence:
Position 1's Moral Reasoning (or "principles / values" for their reasoning):

Position 2's Claims:
Position 2's Evidence:
Position 2's Moral Reasoning (or "principles / values" for their reasoning):

Discussion Questions	
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