

The Art of Ethics Bowl

Lesson 1 (Option A): Breaking The Code

Overview: (50 minute lesson)

In this activity, students will break into groups and analyze professional “Codes of Ethics.” Then, based on their experience level, they will create an ethical dilemma that reflects the principles of a chosen profession. At the end of the lesson, students will share and discuss their ideas. As an extension, teams may create their own “Code of Ethics.”

Student Learning Goals:

We will...

- Reflect on moral values principles, and intuitions
- Inquire about the perspectives and principles of others
- Create scenarios that test our moral reasoning
- Create our own “Code of Ethics” (Optional)

How will this help in Ethics Bowl?

This will help your team...

- Develop clear and systematic primary presentations
- Identify central moral dimensions and ethical tensions
- Collaborate to create clear arguments

Materials

- [Codes of Ethics - \(student handout\)](#)
- [Lesson Slides - Breaking the Code](#)
- [Professional Ethics Example Cases - Reference Document](#)
- [Optional “Create Your Own Ethics Bowl Code” handout](#)

Preparation before the lesson:

- Print the “Codes of Ethics” handout above (Have enough for small groups of 2-3 students each)

Lesson Facilitation:

1. Present Slide Show
 - a. [Slides 1-3](#): Introduce “Professional Codes of Ethics”
 - b. [Slides 4-5](#): Model 2 examples of dilemmas related to professional ethics
2. [Present slide 6](#): Group Work – Breaking the Code
 - a. Split students into groups. Let each group choose a profession.
 - b. Pass out the [“Codes of Ethics” handouts](#) to the appropriate teams.
 - c. Give students around 10–15 minutes to discuss their professional code of ethics and then create a scenario that would put the code to the test.
 - i. If students are less comfortable creating case studies (or if they are new to Ethics Bowl), you can use the [“Professional Ethics Example Cases”](#) document to stimulate student thinking.
 - d. Students should write down the scenario and be ready to share it with other small groups.
 - e. After 10-15 minutes, have small groups present their scenario to the class, and have the group debate what should be done in response to that scenario.

- i. Pay particular attention to when and where student scenarios would lead professionals to “follow” or “break” the code of ethics in the name of doing what’s right.

3. Lesson Extension: Crafting a “Code” for Ethics Bowlers

- a. If time allows, move to [slide 7](#)
 - b. Pass out the [optional “Create Your Own Ethics Bowl Code” handout](#)
 - c. Have students brainstorm together about what principles and values they might focus on as they approach the year. This is a great opportunity for you, as a coach, to help them set norms, agreements, and expectations for how they will work together as a team.