

The Art of Ethics Bowl

Lesson 1 (Option B): 10 Agreements of Ethics Bowlers

Overview: (50 minute lesson)

In this lesson, Ethics Bowlers will analyze rules and principles for philosophers and apply them to short scenarios in a four-corner debate. At the end, teams will create “agreements” that will serve as a framework for how they will work together during Ethics Bowl club meetings and competitions.

Student Learning Goals:

We will...

- Analyze and discuss “rules” for philosophers and Ethics Bowl
- Reflect on (and discuss) moral values, principles, and intuitions
- Inquire about the perspectives and principles of others
- Create “agreements” that will act as guidelines for an Ethics Bowl team.

Materials

- [10 Commandments - Handout](#)
- [Lesson Slides - 10 Agreements of Ethics Bowlers](#)

Preparation before the lesson:

- Print 10 Commandments - Handout

How will this help in Ethics Bowl?

This will help your team...

- Identify central moral dimensions and ethical tensions
- Collaborate to create clear arguments
- Support positions with moral reasoning
- Thoughtfully consider opposing perspectives
- Collaborate in respectful discussions

Lesson Facilitation:

1. Break students into teams and have them read through Bertrand Russell’s “10 Commandments for Philosophers”. As students work, help clarify and paraphrase any of the rules that are more challenging. ([Slide 2](#))
 - a. Students will re-rank these commandments based on their own sense of which rules are most *useful* for Ethics Bowl.
2. As a group, discuss your top 3 and bottom 3 rules.
 - a. Compare and contrast the values across the team.
3. Then, as a group, complete a 4-corner debate activity ([slide 3](#)) Each example is loosely based on one of Russell’s 10 commandments. (This activity could be as short as 15 minutes or extended depending on how much time you want to allow for discussion after each statement)
 - a. Once students have moved to different areas of the room, allow groups to share their perspectives on each statement.
4. Near the end of the lesson, transition to the back of the handout:
 - a. Students will have space to create their own “agreements” outlining the rules and principles they will follow as an Ethics Bowl team.

- b. As a coach or club advisor of returning students, this is a great opportunity to provide feedback on areas of strength and growth based on their performance in prior Ethics Bowl matches.
- c. If you are working with mostly new students, this is an opportunity to help establish norms and procedures that will guide them as they engage in the complex conversations and debates of Ethics Bowl.