

## The Art of Ethics Bowl

### Lesson 5: To Publish Or Not to Publish? Team-Based Case File

#### **Overview: (50 minute lesson)**

In this activity, students will work in teams to analyze a case file about a high school editorial team that must decide whether to publish a contentious article. Teams will synthesize evidence from the case and present a verbal argument about whether or not the newspaper should publish the article in question. There is a 1-hour version and a 2+ hour version of this lesson depending on time.

#### **Student Learning Goals:**

We will...

- Write clear claims with systematic support through moral reasoning and evidence
- Write arguments that engage with moral perspectives
- Listen to other arguments and offer commentary in response

#### **How will this help in Ethics Bowl?**

This will help your team...

- Directly answer an ethical question / prompt
- Develop clear and systematic primary presentations
- Identify central moral dimensions and ethical tensions
- Collaborate to create clear arguments
- Develop awareness of different viewpoints
- Thoughtfully consider opposing perspectives

#### **Materials**

- [To Publish or Not To Publish? Case File \(1-Hour Version\)](#)
- [To Publish or Not To Publish? Case File \(2+ Hour Version\)](#)

#### **Preparation before lesson:**

- Print enough case files for groups

#### **Lesson Facilitation:**

1. Based on your time constraints with your students, select one the versions of the case files from above. The "1 Hour Version" has fewer sources, so you can have students read, analyze, and debate in a 1 hour session. However, the "2+ Hour Version" adds more sources and complexity. If you choose this option, you may want to have students read and analyze the case during the first session and then present their arguments at the next session.
2. Once you've chosen your option, pass out the "To Publish or Not to Publish?" Case file
3. Read the overview and answer any big questions about the goal of the activity.
4. Split students into groups and give them a time limit for each of the following components of the activity (based on a 50 minute time period):
  - a. Individual reading and annotation (10-15 minutes)
  - b. Team discussion, analysis, and argument creation (15-20 minutes)
  - c. Team 1 presentation (5 minutes)
  - d. Team 2 Commentary (~3 minutes)
  - e. Team 2 presentation (5 minutes)
  - f. Team 1 commentary (~3 minutes)

### **Modifications / Extensions:**

- Teams needing more support:
  - Annotate the first source as a whole group and agree on annotation symbols that help track stakeholder perspectives, morally relevant evidence, and moral frameworks. Then, debrief and discuss annotations before moving on to argument creation.
  - Assign a “presentation template” for teams to fill in. It might contain the following:
    - Summary of general moral issue:
    - Important stakeholders we have considered:
    - Our position on this moral issue:
    - Our reasoning to support our position:
    - Other positions on this issue (and rebuttal):
    - Conclusion:
- Extension ideas:
  - Have teams write a formal argument on paper that they will present.
  - Have teams draft a formal “email” or correspondence with one of the stakeholders, explaining their decision and justification. (For example: Teams draft a letter to the principal, Mrs. Donnelly, or the coach)