

Put Yourself on the Triangle

Decide Commit Justify/Reason Reflect

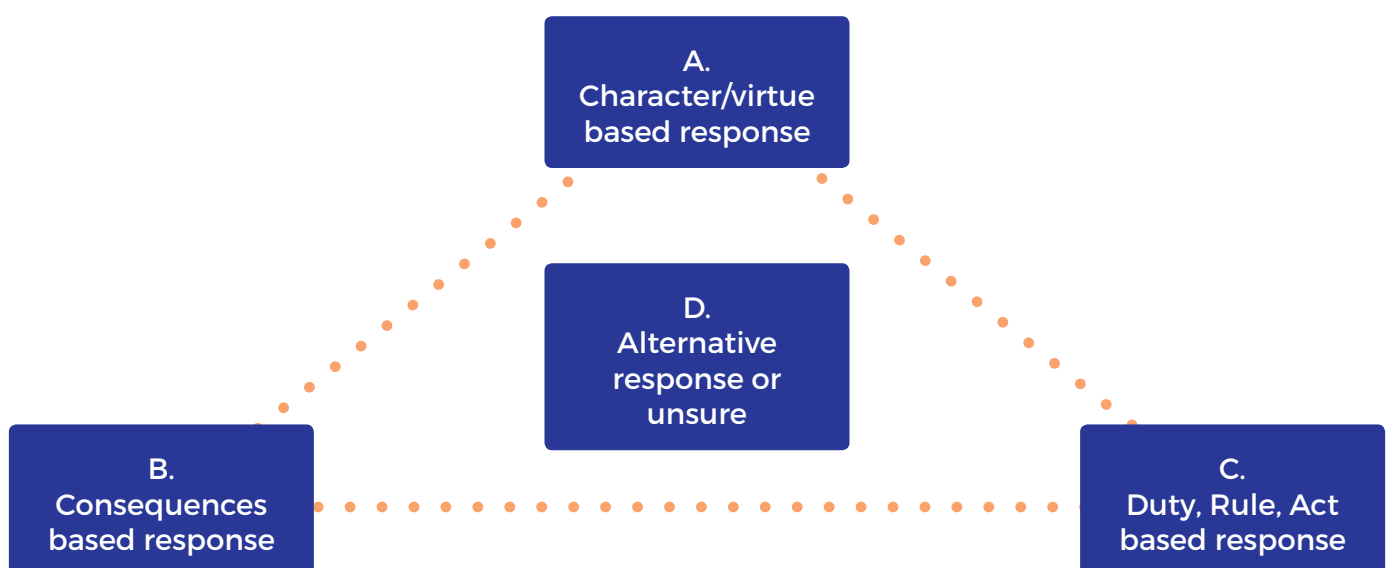


THINKING ETHICALLY TOOL/ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY:

Students put themselves on the triangle depending on their responses to the prompt statements. This activity could be used as a warm up, quick assessment of the kinds of ethical positions within the group, stimulus/prompt for further discussion or reflection at the end of a theme/topic/concept.

1. Ethical problem is identified, i.e. lying
2. Students gather in the centre of the room.
3. Teacher/student leader asks students to make a decision (**decide**) and commit to a location in the triangle.
4. Three options are provided (a fourth if you want to open it up to other options, or you feel you have students who aren't confident enough, but the idea is that you want them to commit).
 - a. It is important to be an honest person (**character**)
 - b. Lying can get you into trouble or people will like you if you are honest (**consequence**)
 - c. Lying is wrong and you have a duty to tell the truth (**duty/rule**)
 - d. Other or unsure.
5. Students (depending on numbers and time all students to a handful could be selected) offer justifications/reasons (**justify/reason**) for their selection.
6. There is an opportunity here for a Col discussion to deepen the understanding of all the perspectives and develop rich criteria for ethical decision making.
7. Students are asked to reflect on the responses provided by other students can change their position if they are convinced by something they hear.
8. Depending on the intention of the activity students could be asked to **justify** their change or non-change of position.



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OTHER PROMPT STATEMENTS:

You should never lie/ always tell the truth because ...

- It is important to be an honest person.
- Lying can get you into trouble or people will like you if you are honest.
- Lying is wrong and you have a duty to tell the truth.
- Other or unsure.

You should never steal because ...

- If you steal you are a dishonest and / or greedy person.
- If you get caught then you may face consequences like going to jail.
- It is bad to steal and no one has a right to take another person's property.
- Other or unsure.

Sharing is good because ...

- If you share then you are a generous person and being generous is a good quality.
- If you share others will share with you.
- Sharing means you are a generous and kind person and these are qualities worth having.
- Other or unsure.

Additional prompt statements

Killing is wrong because ...

Saying please and thank you is the right thing to do because ...

Eating meat is wrong because ...

The death penalty is wrong because ...

You should always do what you say you will do because ...

Treating others as if you are better than them is wrong because ...

It is bad to cheat because ...

*Please be mindful that when constructing your own prompt statements that there are multiple kinds of ethical positions even within a framework (consequences, duties/rules, virtue/character), i.e. Stealing and consequences – you may think that the consequences of stealing is that you will feel guilty or you are creating unhappiness for the person you stole from. The motivations behind a particular position may not be reflected in the prompt, hence the need for a fourth option (Unsure or other).

