

Teaching Strategy: “Writing a Paper on Ethical Accountability”

Essay writing allows students to explore ethical issues in-depth and is an effective assignment to assess their reasoning and critical analysis. Share the following writing tips with your students:

Step 1

Outline the specific ethical dilemma to identify the focus of your topic. Ensure that it challenges two separate ethical assertions and forces you to decide between the two. The decision you make could be the focus of your thesis.

Step 2

Determine which ethical standards are being challenged and in what way they are being challenged. List all significant elements of your ethical dilemma.

Step 3

Create your paper outline and arrange the elements of your ethical dilemma into individual sections. Make sure that your paper’s logic flows freely through your paper in order to allow you to arrive at a conclusion.

Step 4

Write your paper with a strong introduction that grabs your reader’s attention and establishes your paper’s thesis. Write each section individually, clearly examining your points throughout, and include clear transition statements between each of your sections.

Step 5

Create a conclusion that brings all of your points together and establishes a final assessment of your ethical dilemma, supported by the points you made in your paper.

You can use some of following scenarios to share with your students to discuss taking action and being accountable:

You are an employee at a fast-food restaurant in charge of the grill. It’s busy today, and a lot of orders are coming in fast. In the process of cooking, you drop a hamburger patty on the floor. Your manager is passing by and says “Just pick it up and serve it.” What would you do?



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Integrating Ethics:

From Thought to Action

You have a research paper due in a few days for your English class. If you don't do well in this class, your financial aid will be compromised—you can not afford school otherwise. A friend tells you about a website that creates custom papers for a small fee. You are guaranteed an "A" on the essay, and guaranteed you won't be caught. What would you do?

You are at a party with all of your friends. Everyone is having a great time. You notice one of your fellow partiers has obviously had too much to drink and is on the verge of passing out. What would you do?

Your friend tells you in the strictest confidence that she is cheating on her boyfriend. A few months later, her boyfriend asks you straight out: "Is _____ cheating on me?" What would you say?

Your apartment was burglarized, and many things were stolen, including a television in your living room. That television, however, had been broken down, irreparably, and was worthless—you just haven't had the time or money to replace it. Luckily you have renter's insurance to cover your losses. Do you include the television in your insurance claim? What would you do?

You see a woman shoplifting at a grocery store. She has two small children with her and its obvious she is stealing food for them. Do you tell store employees and report her? What would you do?



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