Reasoning with Ethics

Ethics in action creates character

Use this blog to:

1. *Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.*

2. *Teach students skills to analyze cases with core values.*

3. *Teach students about the four-components of ethical functioning*

Privacy and Shaming on the Internet

The case of Playmate Dani Mathers and a 70 year-old woman that she photographed naked in gym locker room and then shamed her appearance on social media appears to be a clear violation of privacy.

When the story broke earlier in the year, Ms. Mathers was roundly criticized for her behavior. CBS reports Mathers "regrets" her actions, but is pleading "not guilty" to violating privacy laws. Watching the brief news clip (http://bit.ly/PlaymateCharged) about this case, the female news anchor asks the question of the guest lawyer, "Can a woman expect complete privacy in a locker room? Should we assume this is going to be a private space?"

That Mathers would act on her impulse to photograph and publicly post something she perceived as "funny" and that a professional news anchor would ask the question about privacy poses the question; how do we define privacy in the modern digital era? It seems that a digital record can be made of anything and anyone at any time.

SEE recognizes that students seem to violate their own personal privacy with ill-advised posts on social media. How much less does the tech-generation respect the privacy of others? It would seem obvious that Ms. Mathers crossed a line of respecting privacy, but a good discussion question seeks to find an ethical consensus on how current technology should be limited to protect the privacy of others.

Students may respond to these questions on our website at - http://bit.ly/SEEethicsblog where more information is available in support of *Reasoning with Ethics*.