



Reasoning with Ethics

JANUARY 17, 2017

A Project of The School for Ethical Education | www.ethicsed.org

“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.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog](#)

Just Action or Lost Liberty?

Adam Saleh, who is recognized as a “YouTube personality” was removed from a Delta airlines flight from Europe to New York City after a controversy sparked by his use of Arabic during passenger boarding. Mr. Saleh claims in a CBS interview that he was speaking on the phone to his mother who only speaks Arabic. Saleh testified this is his regular routine, to call his mom on his phone before every flight departs. He noted he flies up to 20 times/month and this is the first time he has ever been confronted with this behavior as an issue.



What was the issue that led to Mr. Saleh’s removal from the plane? That is a point of great confusion, which the accompanying video (<http://bit.ly/Saleh-Removed>) does not clarify. Were 20 other Delta passengers concerned with Saleh speaking in Arabic on the phone, or were they concerned with the confrontation that resulted with people sitting in front of him? We don’t have the details to know the answer, but we can pose questions where responses can be guided by core ethical values.

Is a passenger speaking in Arabic on the phone prior to an international flight grounds for concern by other passengers? If so, what core ethical values support these passengers’ concerns? SEE recognizes that the timing of this incident with a recent ISIS attack in Germany complicates the perceptions and emotions of other passengers on the flight. Mr. Saleh’s occupation as an on-line provocateur also complicates the specific case. But, if you were the Delta airline captain that had to make the decision about removing any passenger for speaking in Arabic, what core ethical values would guide you?

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*.

Contact information

The School for Ethical Education is a not for profit teaching agency in Milford, CT with the mission to advance strategies of placing ethics in action to create character. As a non-sectarian 501(C)3, SEE is supported by fees for service, grants and donations. For more information visit our website at www.ethicsed.org Please reply with “unsubscribe” in the subject heading if you want to be removed from this Reasoning with Ethics Blog.