



Reasoning with Ethics

DECEMBER 19, 2016

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

Carrier and Business Values

The air conditioning manufacturer, Carrier was recently noted for renegotiating a company move to Mexico. President-elect Donald Trump had intervened to seek Carrier to keep jobs in the US. The new deal resulted in Carrier agreeing to keep about 800 jobs in the US after tax breaks were secured for the company.



There are those who debate the economics of tax breaks for international firms and the perception that they are “blackmailing” government to keep the jobs in the US. Regardless of the big picture economics, there is almost universal gratitude on the part of the employees who get to keep their jobs.

The CBS [video link here](#) cuts off the Carrier representative’s original announcement to employees about the decision to move to Mexico. In other videos, you hear the representative saying, “This is a business decision” to an immediate chorus of boos. SEE would like to ask students (our future business leaders) whether or not there is an ethical core value in sustaining a business in a community, even if profits might be maximized elsewhere.

Some would suggest there is no capitalist economic philosophy that doesn’t seek to maximize profit alone, but that is not entirely true. There are companies that include concerns about the environment, product quality and their employees. The question posed here is, “Is there a company ethical value in sustaining US employment that may equal some reduction in profit to shareholders?” If so, what type of negotiation skill would be necessary to sustain an ethical value of local hire in the face of shareholder pressure to maximize profits alone?

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.