



Reasoning with Ethics

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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. Recognize skills in support of the four components of ethical functioning.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)

Resisting Free Speech

Milo Yiannopoulos is in the news again as one of the journalists on “Real Time with Bill Maher” has refused to appear on a panel with Mr. Yiannopoulos. Milo Yiannopoulos is recognized for his conservative political views and some would consider outrageous presentations.

Yiannopoulos uses humor and satire to advance his arguments and this often requires a defense of free speech rights. A speech at UC Berkeley was canceled on February 1, 2017 after violence broke out during protests of his scheduled presentation on the UC Berkeley campus. Many noted the irony of this protest in light of UC Berkeley’s reputation as one of the birthplaces for the modern free speech movement in 1964.

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Ben Shapiro, another conservative speaker has also experienced violent protests or reversals of university support in the face of individuals or groups on college campuses that do not want to allow his views to be presented. Shapiro has met sometimes violent resistance at California State University (2/25/16) and DePaul University (11/15/16).

SEE makes no advocacy for either man’s views, but does raise the ethical question asking what core values support the right to freedom of speech. As we assert the right of freedom of speech, we recognize it does have legal limits, for example, it would not be legal to incite a group to violence.

As our civil culture continues to come under meaningful strain, it seems productive to reassert the fundamental values that support a republican form of democracy. Free speech rights are one of those fundamental values and a basic requirement for a free society to allow expression in many forms. Students are encouraged to identify the core ethical values that should defend the principle of free speech, which we also recognize is legally protected in the US Constitution’s First Amendment. In addition, students are asked to suggest what social skills might support the expression of free speech.

For all questions, SEE welcomes students to post their response on our website at http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case where more information is available in support of *Reasoning with Ethics*.

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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.

