



Reasoning with Ethics

MAY 13, 2019

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 ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)

Ethics and Suicide

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School community in Parkland, Florida, and site of the 17 shooting deaths in February 2018 are suffering again with a second student suicide within two weeks. Parents in Parkland have noted the concern that their community might follow the tragic example of Columbine High School in Colorado where after the 1999 murder of 13 Columbine High School students almost as many students took their own lives.

Suicides follow tragedy. What core values motivate intervention?



Suicide is a serious issue everywhere, but particularly in communities following a tragedy like Parklands. The CDC notes there is a suicide death in the US every 12 minutes and suicide is the second leading cause of death for those age 5 to 24. There are often (not always) warning signs for suicide, which include “changes in eating or sleeping habits, frequent or pervasive sadness, withdrawal from friends, family, and regular activities, frequent complaints about physical symptoms often related to emotions, such as stomachaches, headaches, fatigue, etc., decline in the quality of schoolwork, and preoccupation with death and dying.” (1) Those seeking help to resist suicide can call the national suicide hotline at (800) 273-8255.

As suicide's reach goes beyond communities that have experienced trauma, SEE asks students what core values would be demonstrated by developing awareness of suicide warning signs and reaching out to help or refer classmates who display these warnings.

- (1) https://www.aacap.org/aacap/families_and_youth/facts_for_families/fff-guide/teen-suicide-010.aspx

Video link for this archived case: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/parkland-shooting-survivors-second-apparent-suicide-columbine/>

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.