



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.](#)

Ethics of a Tech Attack

The City of Dallas, Texas recently experienced the hacking and blaring sound of all of their emergency weather alert sirens. The sirens, which should alert citizens of an impending dangerous weather condition, sounded all

across the city for over an hour around midnight on Friday, April 7. The 911 call center was overwhelmed with callers seeking clarification on the alert.

Looking back on the system hack, city officials concluded this was the result of (1) a tech prankster, (2) a person who wanted to prove the system was flawed, or (3) a scheme to distract from crime being committed. SEE would like students to reflect on the ethical core values of “the hacker”. So much of modern life is tied in some way to technology, and those who know how to manipulate technology have an amplified ability to impact us all.

Students are invited to respond to the following questions. Is this a no-harm tech prank that can earn the prankster credibility in the tech community? Or, are their harm issues that should be considered in this behavior whether it was a prank or to demonstrate a system flaw? What core ethical values are being demonstrated with either motivation? There is no need to analyze the ethical values of anyone using their tech ability to cover up another crime. Finally, if a student became aware of a prank like this in the planning stages, would they have any ethical obligation to act on this knowledge? If so, what might be their ethical options?

Regarding the questions in this case, SEE welcomes students to post their response on our website at http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case where more information is available for *Reasoning with Ethics*. The video link for this archived case is found at-- <http://bit.ly/Dallas-Hack>

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
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