



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.](#)

When Protests Turn Violent

Clearly the last year in politics has raised tensions and deepened the divide between what is recognized as a populist “alt right” and the progressive “radical left” in the United States.

Without attempting to define either of these political labels here, SEE does seek to encourage respectful dialogue across any political, religious, economic or cultural divide. We make the basic ethical claim that violence should never overwhelm those engaged in discussing their differences.

As noted in the video link here from CBS News, it is becoming a regular occurrence where philosophical opponents now escalate their rhetoric and move into physical violence. This is not a unique phenomenon to the political right or left. There are examples within the last month where both sides of the political spectrum have resorted to violent actions. The example here (link below) just happens to represent members of the “alt right” attacking opponents on the left.

Ethics defines values, rules and norms that help govern a community in order for it to flourish. Riots sparked from political disagreements are not recognized as a definition of flourishing. What core ethical values should regulate a person seeking to participate in public political debate? When public protests are planned, what ethical values should govern protesters behavior to avoid violence?

In recent video reports, the lead up to violence is often vulgar name calling across the space of protest lines. Thus, do core ethical values have anything to say to govern our use of name calling?

Regarding the questions in this case, SEE welcomes students to post their response on our website at http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case and view the video for this archived case at-- <http://bit.ly/violent-politics>

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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