



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

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)



The Ethics of Automation

Will artificial intelligence (AI) and automation create or destroy jobs? It clearly can do both and there are plenty of stories and concerns about the loss of many jobs (cashiers to truck drivers) and the optimistic vision of AI creating whole new job sectors. Several links are provided below for students to research the question further.



SEE asks students to consider whether automation should be considered with an ethical lens. If a retailer or trucking firm could automate and have higher profits, should any consideration be given to the employees who will lose their jobs? Is there only an obligation to the company's profit or is there an obligation to employees and society to help retrain or keep people gainfully employed?

Students today will be the managers of tomorrow who make the decisions about investment in employees. There are organizations like Conscious Capitalism that argue that business in the modern era must focus beyond profit to be sustainable by balancing the interests of all stakeholders. What core values are demonstrated if business leaders choose to include a concern for their employees in their automation plans?

Background information for this archived case—

Automation threatening 25% of Jobs in the US. CNBC (1/25/2019) <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/25/these-workers-face-the-highest-risk-of-losing-their-jobs-to-automation.html>

Job Loss Due to AI- How Bad is it Going to Be? Skynet Today Editorial (2/4/19) <https://www.skynettoday.com/editorials/ai-automation-job-loss>
AI Will Create More Jobs (1/9/18) <https://www.cmswire.com/digital-workplace/why-artificial-intelligence-will-create-more-jobs-than-it-destroys/>

Conscious Capitalism -- <https://www.consciouscapitalism.org/>

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

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