



Reasoning with Ethics

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Ethics in action creates character.

Use this blog to:

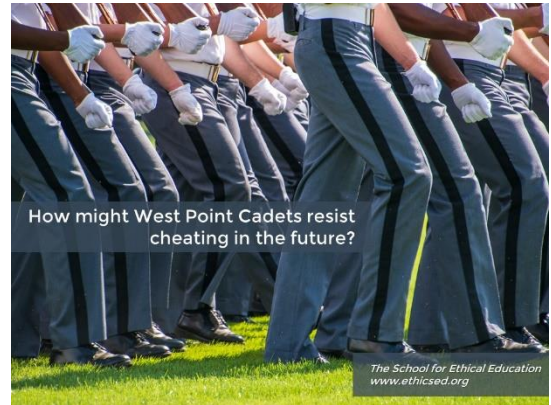
1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.
2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)



Cheating at West Point

Not since the mid-70s has the US Military Academy at West Point suffered such an embarrassing revelation of cheating. The news was hidden during the holiday season when the story broke that over 70 cadets were accused of cheating on a calculus exam.



It appears that online learning and assessment last May had created an opportunity for cadets to cheat. They used social media to exchange answers for an exam. The cheating was exposed when an incorrect answer was replicated on all the exams of the accused students.

West Point is an honor-code institution with the well-known statement of, "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do." A spokesman for the Academy stated that after adjudication, the guilty cadets will be held accountable for breaking the code.

While the code was not sufficient to resist this episode of cheating, SEE asks students to respond to the Academy's sanction for some of the guilty cadets that will include a six-month series of ethics coursework. Simply recognizing cheating as unethical is one deterrent to future cheating. What core values are violated when students cheat on exams or academic projects?

Why did some commentators extend this case of cheating by freshman at West Point into a national security concern?

Students are invited to suggest an intervention they think might be useful to resist cheating in the future at West Point or their own school.

Supplemental Links

CBS News video(5:25): <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/west-point-cheating-scandal-cadets-calculus-exam/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

CBS News: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/west-point-cheating-scandal-cadets-calculus-exam/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

NPR Story: <https://www.npr.org/2020/12/21/949025580/more-than-70-west-point-cadets-accused-of-cheating-in-academic-scandal?sc=18&f=1001>

SEE resources to support Academic Integrity: <https://www.ethicsed.org/free-resources.html>