



# Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education | [www.ethicsed.org](http://www.ethicsed.org)

*Ethics in action creates character.*

Use this blog to:

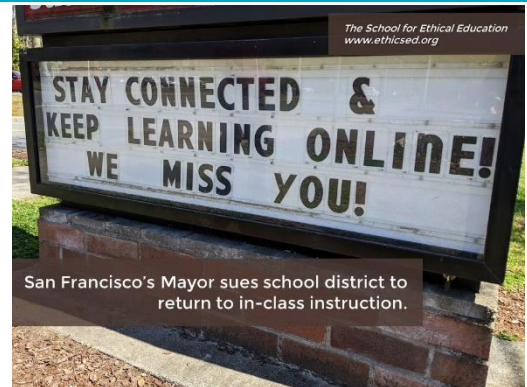
1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.
2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

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## *Core Values and Negotiation*

San Francisco's mayor is suing the San Francisco Unified School District to have the District return to in-class instruction. Teachers' unions in San Francisco and other cities are resisting the call to return to classroom learning citing insufficient protection from COVID.



Enter the Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. Senator McConnell spoke on the Senate floor to accuse teachers' unions of failing to act in the best interest of children. He cited research and the successful experience of schools in the US and Europe without the meaningful spread of COVID.

In this emotionally charged issue, facts become difficult things to pin down to advance a reasoned dialogue between those who believe schools should open to in-class learning and those who need other interventions completed to comfortably work in schools.

Regardless of which position is "based on science", students are asked to play the role of a school superintendent and determine what ethical values they would want to demonstrate (and what would that look like) in seeking to negotiate a reasonable opening to in-class learning. What social skills would support the demonstration of those values? In addition, how would the goal of demonstrating ethical values support the goal of negotiating a solution?

### Supplemental Links

CBS News- (3:48) <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/san-francisco-sues-own-school-district-to-resume-in-person-classes/>

McConnell challenge to Teachers' Unions (includes link to speech)--

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/the-best-interests-of-children-have-often-come-dead-last-watch-mcconnell-tear-into-teachers-unions>

Chicago Teachers Union votes against in-person learning CNBC (1:41)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJYpyivx30>

CDC guidelines for schools-- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>