



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.](#)

Student Drinking: The Ethics of Binging

CBS reports on an epidemic of binge drinking by students in high school and college. They define binge drinking as having 4 to 5 drinks in 2 hours. Students now brag about blacking out, as evidence of a binge. The practice of binging can begin in high school with some college students noting they began their weekend parties with parents' alcohol when they were 14.



While the dangers of excessive drinking are well publicized, that awareness doesn't seem to alter the current trends. A social worker in the accompanying CBS video reported, "Almost 2000 students die each year due to excessive drinking." Also, from 2006-10, 88,000 people (all ages) died each year from excessive alcohol use. This compares to the 70,000 people who died from drug overdoses in the US in 2017 during the peak of the opioid epidemic.

But death is not the only risk, excessive drinking is also linked to sexual vulnerability and all the related health impacts from STDs, longer-term alcohol addiction, accidents and a variety of other health and physiological risks.

If the risks of excessive drinking don't deter students, might reflection and establishing a commitment to core ethical values help students resist the peer pressure of binging? Rather than discuss what "I won't do", the discussion turns to, "I will become ..." and identify the goal of an ethical value. I will become a person of integrity and that integrity protects my health.

Students are asked to respond to this suggested alternative discussion to resist excessive student drinking. Is this a reasonable approach to mitigate the "study hard and party hard" culture? Suggestions to effectively resist binge drinking are requested.

Regarding this archived case, SEE welcomes students to post responses on our website at http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case where the relevant video link is-- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/drinking-culture-american-kids-and-the-danger-of-being-cool/>

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 Please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject heading if you want to be removed from this Reasoning with Ethics Blog.