



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.

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Ethics of Protest

The 136th football game between Yale and Harvard is the second oldest US football rivalry and was played on Saturday in New Haven, CT.

Near the end of half-time, protesters chanting “divest” and holding banners seeking climate justice stormed the field and prevented the football teams from resuming play. The cause of their protest was to seek Yale and Harvard to divest their endowments from the fossil fuel industry.

As protesters continued to swarm the field, the public address announcer pleaded for the participants to exit out of courtesy to the teams. Response from the protesters included chants of, “Okay boomer.” It was estimated that about 150 students were part of the original protest and another 100 others joined spontaneously. It took over 60 minutes to clear the field and the last 20 to 30 protesters were arrested.

Peaceful protest and freedom of assembly are honored in the US Constitution (1st & 14th Amendments). From the revolutionary war to civil rights protests of the 60s, and the plethora of modern protest movements, the act of peaceful protest is fully respected in US law. We recognize protests can also come in many forms to include peaceful civil disobedience, where laws are broken to make a bigger point.

SEE requests students discuss the core values that might support various kinds of protests. What core values support (or refute) the following type of protests—(1) seeking to drive political opponents out of restaurants, (2) public assembly and speeches for or against any cause, (3) protests seeking to shut down public events they disagree with, (4) picket line protests in public space to support or oppose a cause, (5) trespass protests that break the law in support of a cause as demonstrated in this Yale-Harvard football game protest.

Regarding this archived case, the following links have more information.

CBS news video: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/harvard-yale-football-game-interrupted-climate-protest-today-2019-11-23/>

ESPN: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7D_jdO8KwA

Dr. Martin Luther King's support for civil disobedience -

<https://grademiners.com/blog/martin-luther-king-jr-civil-disobedience-essay-sample>

Contact information

The [School for Ethical Education](http://www.ethicsed.org) is a not-for-profit teaching agency in Milford, CT with the mission to advance strategies of placing ethics in action to create character.

