



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.](#)



Consent & Family Vlogging

The internet supports platforms where individuals and families have financially prospered by attracting viewers to creative and entertaining content. Family vlogging has become an industry where some child stars are earning multiple millions per year with their YouTube posts. Family vloggers have left their “day jobs” and turned their home life with their children into a profitable income center.



Tiffany Ferg is a millennial vlogger herself, who started vlogging when she was 11, and now has a subscription following of over 615,000. A link to her commentary on family vlogging is provided below. She notes some of the ethical concerns associated with the activity.

Child actors have historically experienced exploitation by adults, which has regrettably included their parents. In addition to losing a normal childhood to the demands of a professional work schedule, they become vulnerable to exposure to fame along with the criticisms that it can bring and the challenges of regulating one's lifestyle with the temptations of money and the subsequent availability of drugs, alcohol, and sexual activity.

Child and infant actors in family vlogs can be protected from some of the excesses of Hollywood fame, but many challenging questions are raised. What consent can a child or infant provide when the parents are running the vlog? When might a child say, “No, I don't want to participate?” What are the ethical boundaries if parents create artificially stressful situations for their children in an attempt to gain more viewers? One suggestion has been to demonetize any family vlog that includes children 13 and under.

SEE asks students to consider the ethical complexity of adults seeking to monetize their family vlogs. When might family vlogging violate core ethical values? What values could be violated? How can the consent of participants be understood when children and infants are included in family vlogs?

Regarding the responses sought for this issue, SEE welcomes students to post on our website at http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case where relevant links and more information are available for *Reasoning with Ethics*.

Supplemental Links

Tiffany Ferg, The Dark Side of Family Vlogging (18:27) (2018) --

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yf8Nuj80hM>

Psychology Today (2011) The Child Performer: The making of a star--

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/in-the-trenches/201106/the-child-performer>

Why Some Child Stars Implode (2013)-

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2013/08/06/child-star-issues/2609493/>

8-forty, 2019, The Negative Impact of Fame on Child Stars – <https://8forty.ca/2019/05/09/the-negative-impact-fame-has-on-child-stars/>