



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.

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Harassment as Protest

Protest has a long and respected history in the United States. Freedom of assembly and freedom of speech are embedded in our Constitution and must be protected from tyranny. Tyranny, however, can come in multiple forms. Established powers in government and business can certainly engage in tyranny. Can tyranny evolve from protesters of the status quo?



During the current season of unrest associated with policing, economic inequities, and the November elections, protests have ranged from peaceful marches to violent riots and looting. Somewhere in between this continuum, we have observed the strategy of protesters harassing restaurant-goers.

The links on our website provide multiple examples of protests that turn on people eating at restaurants (and one example of turning on business owners) who become the focus of protester attention. It is unclear to SEE how this strategy advances any objective of a protest. Aside from evaluating the effectiveness of the strategy, students are asked what core values support or refute the strategy of harassing third-party observers. In addition, what core values should guide those who experience the harassment of protesters? What social skills might those being harassed need in order to demonstrate their core values?

Supplemental Links

Skynews- (2:28) Protestors harass DC diners- <https://youtu.be/dSnTTND0UcM>
WES Daily (1:30) Protestors harass diners in Charlotte, NC-- <https://youtu.be/NJedXIPGS9w>
CBS Pittsburgh (2:38) Protestors clash with restaurant-goers in Pittsburgh-- <https://youtu.be/wP1JU8aZJ54>
FNTV (2:45) BLM harass diners in Rochester, NY-- <https://youtu.be/ujJm8Hn5sIc>
Grimes (4:46) BLM protestors harass business owners-- <https://youtu.be/NskEJSGPa08>