



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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Responsibility to Neighbors vs. Prepping

One of the public responses to the Coronavirus has been the bulk purchasing of food and other household items at grocery and big box stores. Milk, sanitizing cleaners and paper products are some of the items that stores have had difficulty keeping in stock. Panic buying and fights have broken out at some stores over the demand for toilet paper.



“Preppers”, those who seek to prepare for any catastrophe, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency advise families to maintain a two-week supply of emergency food and household necessities. Others prepare for longer periods, but at the onset of an emergency, prepping can strip stores of their inventory. Preppers advise the building of a personal inventory over time and ahead of an emergency.

In crisis circumstances, do core ethical values raise expectations that our household prepping take into consideration the impact on others? Some stores chose to ration sales of high-demand items such as limiting sales to one item/product/customer.

SEE asks students to identify core ethical values that might guide individual purchasing decisions during a crisis. In addition, what social skills would support good preparation and interacting with others when they are engaged with others demonstrating panic buying?

Supplemental links:

CBS News (2:50) : <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-supply-shortage-supermarket-store-restock-food/>

Newbie Prepper: <https://newbieprepper.com/is-it-against-the-law-to-stockpile-food/>