



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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Rent Waivers

Last week, we asked if ethical capitalism was a realistic solution in the face of examples of price gouging on critically needed medical supplies. This week there are multiple stories from Brooklyn, NY to Half Moon Bay, CA where landlords are waiving rent for their tenants for various periods during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two examples are linked below. In these stories, both landlords live in the communities where they own their rental properties and thus, they personally know their tenants.



Students are encouraged to find and review other stories of landlords waiving rents for their tenants. Beyond the observation that landlords who live in the communities of their tenants have waived rents, are there other factors that can be associated with a landlord's choice to provide rent waivers?

In addition, are these case examples of ethical capitalism, or are there purely economic reasons for landlords to temporarily waive rents? If this is considered ethical capitalism, what core values are guiding the landlords' decisions? Finally, is there an explanation that ethical capitalism and profit motive might work together in the strategy of rental waivers?

Supplemental Links

Brooklyn Landlord waives rent for 80 apartments-- <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/landlord-waives-april-rent-200-tenants-amid-coronavirus-wants-everybody-n1176736>

CA Landlord waiving rent for two months, Half-Moon Bay-- <https://abc7news.com/society/coronavirus-relief-peninsula-landlord-waiving-2-months-of-rent-for-small-businesses/6075743/>