



Reasoning with Ethics

FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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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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Video Security vs Privacy

Most of us have heard the story of a person who is out of their home, but able to intervene via a home security system with someone who might be threatening their property. Recently, it was reported that a man on military assignment in Iraq was alerted to a home break-in by his doorbell camera and able to contact police to stop the crime. This type of story is fueling the home security camera market, which is predicted to approach \$10 billion within three years.



Is there any downside to the good news for home security? As the video from doorbell camera systems are optionally (by the owners) made public to police and neighbors, some object that innocent bystanders are involuntarily recorded, publicly broadcast and sometimes mistakenly labeled with criminal intent. The concerns go further with suggestions that racial profiling is encouraged and supported by this technology.

Students are asked to consider what core ethical values might be compromised with the use of home security systems that allow public sharing of live images. Do those walking in public space in front of video secured homes have an ethical claim to privacy? What limits might be placed on home video security systems to balance the security need of a homeowner and the privacy rights of the public? What core values support privacy rights?

Additional info link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/neighborhood-watch-apps-ring-doorbells-racial-profiling-2-0-cbsn-originals-documentary/>