



# Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education | [www.ethicsed.org](http://www.ethicsed.org)

*Ethics in action creates character.*

Use this blog to:

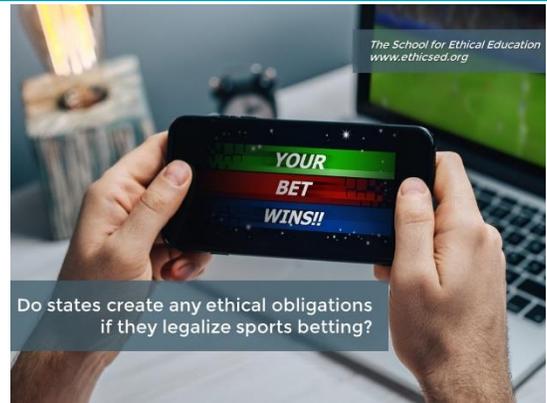
1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics, or advisory classes.
2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)



## ***Sports Betting***

It is estimated that betting on the recently concluded NCAA's Basketball Tournament grew to \$10 billion this year to exceed last year's \$8.5 billion. Some are suggesting that sports betting will grow 10% per year and by 2024 involving \$134 billion/year. Since the US Supreme Court's decision in 2018 to legalize sports betting in states beyond Nevada, sport's betting has extended to 18 states with legislation pending in six more. States see an opportunity to gain tax revenue from legal online betting.



Clearly, a lot of money is being made and a lot of taxes are collected in an activity that is classified as entertainment. A topic not often raised in the anticipation of profits and tax income is the growth of gambling addiction.

While not a "substance", the experience of gambling affects some people in the same way as drugs or alcohol. The psychological impacts of gambling create a rush that can become compulsive and lead to addictive behavior. Statistics vary, but estimates of one to two percent of the adult population and six to nine percent of college-age people (a majority being male) experience gambling addiction. Increasing the ready access to online gambling only increases the likelihood of increasing the number of people becoming addicted.

Gambling addiction has horrible costs for those it ensnares. Loss of relationships, increasing debt, depression, and law-breaking to gain income to cover debts have all been associated with the addiction. Treatment is possible but requires commitment, time, and resources to pursue.

Students are asked to consider if the expansion of legalized sports betting is an ethical issue? What core values are demonstrated in the advocacy to expand or restrict sports gambling? If sports gambling is legalized, does the state have an ethical obligation to allocate a portion of tax receipts to address the issue of gambling addiction?

## **Supplemental Links**

BetFirm, How Much Money is Bet on March Madness (3/17, 2021) --

<https://www.betfirm.com/money-bet-march-madness/>

ESPN, United States of sports betting, (3/7/21)--

[https://www.espn.com/chalk/story/\\_/id/19740480/the-united-states-sports-betting-where-all-50-states-stand-legalization](https://www.espn.com/chalk/story/_/id/19740480/the-united-states-sports-betting-where-all-50-states-stand-legalization)

Cision PRNewswire, \$134B Growth in Sports Betting (3/4/21)-- <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/-134-06-billion-growth-in-sports-betting-market-2020-2024--digital-revolution-to-emerge-as-key-trend--technavio-301240329.html#:~:text=NEW%20YORK%2C%20March%204%2C%202021,10%25%20during%20the%20forecast%20period>

Cision PR Newswire, Ease of Use Helps Drive Expansion of Sports Betting (2/17/21) --

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ease-of-use-helps-drive-the-expansion-of-the-sports-betting-market-301229571.html>

ESPN, Sports Betting's Growth in US Extraordinary, (5/14/20) -

[https://www.espn.com/chalk/story/\\_/id/29174799/sports-betting-growth-us-extraordinary](https://www.espn.com/chalk/story/_/id/29174799/sports-betting-growth-us-extraordinary)

NCRG, Gambling Disorders Fact Sheet--

[https://www.icrg.org/sites/default/files/oec/pdfs/ncrg\\_fact\\_sheet\\_gambling\\_disorders.pdf](https://www.icrg.org/sites/default/files/oec/pdfs/ncrg_fact_sheet_gambling_disorders.pdf)

The Recovery Village, Gambling Addiction Facts and Statistics, College Students and Gambling--  
<https://www.therecoveryvillage.com/process-addiction/compulsive-gambling/related/gambling-statistics/>