



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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Thinking of Others during COVID

One of the cruelties of the current pandemic is the isolation of patients in hospitals and senior homes. Particularly as individuals face death, visiting restrictions have kept family from being with their loved ones. While the ethics and necessity of these policies create worthy questions, the current case arises from the experience of New Jersey resident John Lynch and the passing of his father.

Mr. Lynch was prohibited from visiting with his dad as he approached his passing. While his father was able, they did enjoy video visits that were enabled by technology that Mr. Lynch was able to provide to his dad. After his dad passed, John recognized that many others face the same challenges and may not have the technology to support video conversations.

To help others in the same circumstance, Mr. Lynch began "Operation Connection" to provide smartphones or tablets to connect isolated patients with their families. He began by focusing on nursing homes in his hometown of Cape May. John Lynch's choice to see the needs of others while experiencing his own loss demonstrates a remarkable ethic of empathy and care.

Students are asked to consider what might activate a caring ethic for others during a personal loss. In addition, is a caring ethic teachable and if so, what strategies might be used and by whom, to encourage care for others?

Supplemental link

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/man-donates-ipads-to-senior-care-unites-so-elderly-patients-can-stay-connected-to-families/>

