



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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Values-Based Culture

The Cleveland Brown's star defensive end Myles Garrett has been indefinitely suspended by the NFL for participating in an out-of-control melee at the end of a Thursday night game. Commentary about the incident and video links are available below. Garrett stood out among multiple offenders for pulling off the opposing quarterback's helmet and striking him with it.



The NFL represents the competition of spectacularly large, fast and athletic men who all want their team to win a physically challenging and objectively aggressive game. It is governed by rules and officials, but ultimately it is governed by the aspirations and expectations of its participants. The expectations and rules are set by the league and then each team creates its own culture often associated with the owner or the general manager and coach.

At the end of the NFL's 11th week, the culture of the Cleveland Browns football team is marked as one of the most penalized in NFL with 87 enforced penalties and a loss of 822 yards. In comparison, the three teams with the least number of penalties have averaged 58 penalties and 457 yards lost over the same 11 weeks. This highlights one difference in team culture within the NFL. Just as there are different NFL team cultures, there are differences between the cultures among the US professional sports leagues. In professional hockey, fighting is expected and is part of the show and occurs regularly as opposed to professional basketball, football or baseball, where fighting gets you ejected from the game with a possible lengthy suspension and thus it occurs infrequently.

Expectations for any association (team, class, business or family) can be supported by clearly articulated core values. Students are asked to consider how using core ethical values might help any organization establish a flourishing culture for all its members? For this discussion, a flourishing culture should go beyond simply not fighting. Finally, who is responsible to define the core values and support them? How might younger members of any association speak up to clarify the benefits of identifying and demonstrating core values?

Regarding this archived case, follow the relevant links here:

CBS story: <https://www.cbssports.com/nfl/news/myles-garrett-helmet-fight-nfl-star-says-mason-rudolph-should-be-partially-blamed-for-starting-wild-brawl/>
ESPN commentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21NIMgar1sc>
Video of incident: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMHIURixus>

Contact information

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