



Reasoning with Ethics

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Ethics in action creates character.

Use this blog to:

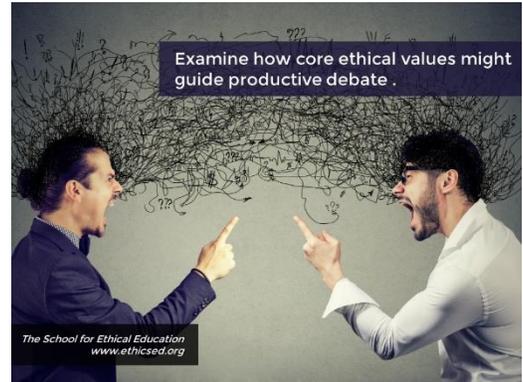
1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.
2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

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Values to Guide Debate

CBS News reported on another attempt by “extremists” to intimidate those who disagree with their worldview. In this case, the extremists were labeled as the far-right or neo-Nazis, and they were making threats and harassing “journalists and activists, particularly Jews and other minorities” who opposed their cultural/political positions. Their political positions were not defined in the story, which noted four men were arrested for intimidating political opponents online and via the mail.



Reasoning with Ethics has raised the question of intimidation of others in an earlier post (11-12-18) when that case involved the extreme left. The US has enshrined freedom of speech in the first article of our Bill of Rights to protect the public debate of ideas. One can argue the ethical foundation of freedom of speech, and what it protects and what is unacceptable (yelling fire in a crowded theater). However, core ethical values should provide a useful ethical compass for how we debate the extent and limits of free speech and debate our political differences.

Students are asked to consider if they are committed to freedom of speech, even for those with whom they disagree? And if they disagree, what core values should guide any expression of their opposition? Our politically divided nation must come to some agreement on how to disagree without threats, personal insults and intimidation.

Finally, what communication skills guided by core values might advance productive dialogue and debate in politics and life?

Supporting links:

CBS News: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/atomwaffen-division-arrests-four-alleged-neo-nazis-accused-of-threatening-journalists-activists-with-posters/>

Past Post regarding Antifa: https://www.ethicsed.org/uploads/8/9/6/8/89681855/11-12-18_ethics_of_protest.pdf