



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.

[Visit the online Ethics Blog.](#)



Service Motivation

Five housekeepers from New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH) have volunteered to join a team to clean the rooms of COVID-19 patients. This clearly puts them at greater risk with exposure to the pandemic.

Housekeepers at NYPH typically earn about \$21/hr, which places them at the bottom earning rung of the hospital where registered nurses might earn \$50/hr.

While the doctors and nurses recognize the potential risks of moving into the field of medicine, particularly in an urban hospital, there would not necessarily be the same awareness or expectation of risk when seeking employment as a housekeeper. When NYPH housekeeping manager Erasmo Ramos was tasked with seeking volunteers to clean the rooms of COVID-19 patients, he recognized the challenging assignment.

Mr. Ramos successfully recruited a five-member team, who understanding the risks, were willing to put the needs of others ahead of their own while demonstrating best safety practices. One of the housecleaners noted, "I care about the patients. I know we're here for them." And another stated, "I feel like I'm saving a life."

Students are asked to consider, what core ethical values motivate some people to volunteer to serve in the face of risk to themselves? Also, should schools share any responsibility to cultivate these values in students? If so, what strategies might schools use to teach values that motivate service?

Supplemental Link:

CBS News story-- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/housekeepers-volunteer-to-clean-covid-19-patients-rooms/>

