

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

CE-401, Seminar

August 29, 2011

You must prepare an essay of between 1000 and 2000 words that addresses the issue described below based on our discussions and your readings about values, ethics, and ethical decision-making. Specifically, you must apply the Josephson Institute [JI] GKC Ethical Decision Making model. **While you could use other decision making models to analyze and resolve ethical dilemmas, you must properly apply the GKC EDM for this assignment.** If you do not understand the GKC EDM, it is your responsibility to ask for and obtain clarification before you write.

This essay assignment is a two-person team project, and each team must identify its members for the essay project in writing to me by email to ce401@richardcheeks.com before the beginning of class on September 12, 2011. I will not permit any solo writing this semester. If there are an odd number of students in the class, the first tentative 3-person team to email me will be given that opportunity. I will reject all later requests for 3-person teams. If some students fail to notify me of their team affiliation before the beginning of class on September 12, 2011, I will assign these people to teams randomly. Once I make these random team assignments and I present them in Class on September 12, 2011, I will not make any writing team assignment changes. **Do not establish a writing team relationship with any student from the other section.**

Each team should begin to plan its writing now while relevant topics that we discuss in class are fresh. The information and discussions in class through Session 7 may be relevant to your essay and analysis. I will assume that each team member has read the final essay, has agreed with its content, organization, grammar, spelling and the overall impression that the writing projects. Each team member will receive the same grade for the essay. Each team should submit the essay as an attachment to email to ce401@richardcheeks.com in Microsoft Word format at any time prior to the beginning of class on October 31, 2011. **DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY TO ME ON PAPER. DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY ON FLOPPY DISK. BE SURE YOUR EMAIL CONTAINS THE NAMES OF EACH TEAM MEMBER AND A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS FOR EACH TEAM MEMBER, and EACH WRITERS' email address SHOULD APPEAR IN EITHER THE FROM OR CC BOX OF THE EMAIL SO I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE TEAM AND RETURN THE GRADED PAPER TO THE TEAM WITH A SIMPLE "REPLY ALL" COMMAND FROM YOUR ORIGINAL EMAIL.** I will also use the email addresses in the event that I must contact your team about the essay during the grading process. I will grade the essays in Microsoft Word with the Track Changes turned "ON" and I will provide each team a new document file by return email that contains the graded essay with my comments, suggestions and editing. I will also post Essay Grades at the website at the same time.

In the video, "Incident At Morales," Fred Martinez was asked, "Can Fred find the moment at which he took the wrong path, when he made the mistake?" I would describe this as "The Point of no return." **Identify that specific moment in this case, describe why the moment you have selected is that critical "Point of No Return" moment, and analyze the ethical dilemma that the Fred faced at that singular moment using the JI GKC EDM. In this regard, be sure that your essay addresses at a minimum the following issues:**

- Describe the relevant facts of the case. Be sure to state the relevant facts correctly, because the validity of your analysis depends upon a correct understanding of the relevant facts. **Do not include irrelevant facts in your essay.**
- Identify the moment at which Fred chose the wrong path. You must explain why it is the critical moment. Do not simply justify this selection by asserting that this is the critical moment. **This assignment presumes that Fred did the wrong thing. Do not labor this point in your analysis.**
- Define and describe the ethical dilemma that Fred faced at this critical moment. Be sure to discuss how two or more of the JI core ethical principles conflict to form the dilemma.
- Define and identify the stakeholders? In addition to defining the stakeholder concept, you should identify the basis for each stakeholder's moral claim against the decision that Fred made.
- Define the ethically viable options Fred could consider? Be sure to identify at least three ethically viable options. Does Fred have any ethically viable options other than those identified for you in the video? Are any of the options identified in the video NOT ETHICALLY VIABLE?
- Which option, in your judgment, will produce the greatest balance of good over bad results? Be sure to present an analysis to support and explain your conclusion. This portion of your analysis is where you will apply the three criteria of the GKC decision-making model. **You must define those criteria and properly apply them.**

This essay is worth 200 pts out of 1000 pts for the semester. Based on prior experience, your grade on this essay assignment may play a determinative role in your final grade in this class. Be forewarned, I will grade the essays based on how well you demonstrate your understanding of the relevant facts in this case, your application of GKC EDM to those relevant facts, and how well you communicate your ideas through your writing. I expect your best effort on this essay, and I warn you in advance that my grading of your writing and analysis will be critical.

ESSAY GRADING CRITERIA

This essay will be graded based upon the following issues. Of necessity, grading essays is a subjective process. **All grading decisions reflect my subjective conclusions and opinions, and as such are final.**

80 Pts Content of Essay:

Does the essay define its thesis and adequately address the six specific issues described briefly above in enumerated items 1 through 6?

50 Pts Organization of Material:

Does the presentation of the essay flow logically with smooth transitions between major ideas, or does the essay jump from random thought to random thought? Are the paragraphs well developed with focused topic sentences? Does the paper use headings effectively to identify the major components? Is the essay titled appropriately?

40 Pts Grammar:

Does the essay comply with generally accepted standards of grammar, e.g. subject/verb relationships, verb tense consistency, noun form consistency, correct word selections, e.g. assure/insure or effect/affect etc., punctuation, etc? Is it written in the active voice rather than the passive voice?

10 Pts Spelling:

This should be self-explanatory; however, prior essays have demonstrated a lack of attention to this detail on words like "engineer." I will deduct one point for each misspelling found in the essay. One point will be deducted for each wrong word usage, even if the wrong word is correctly spelled, e.g. to, two, too.

20 Pts Overall Impression of Instructor:

My impression of particular essay will be based upon my subjective perceptions of readability, coherence of the arguments offered, and the level of effort evidenced in the overall presentation. I will base this component on my subjective assessment of the relative strength of the essays as a group.

Additional Factors:

If the WORD for Windows "Word Count" exceeds 2000 words or is less than 1000 words, I will deduct 20 pts from the final grade **after all other grading is completed.**

If the essay is submitted late, e.g. after the beginning of class on the due date, I will deduct 20 pts from the final grade **after all other grading is completed.**

The essay must be double-spaced in 12 point New Times Roman with 1-inch margins. If you deviate from this format, I will deduct 10 points from your Organization grade.

I strongly suggest that your writing process include topic and sentence outlining, followed by at least three drafts as you seek to refine your presentation. I will not review any outlines or drafts. **I will presume that you submit your final, best effort.**

I have provided a copy of the videotape to the CE Office. You are welcome to borrow the videotape to view it. Checkouts will be on a first come first serve basis, and **the videotape must not leave the building.** You must return it within 1 hour after borrowing it. You must coordinate your use of the videotape with the schedule of the conference room and VCR. You should see Shelia in the CE office to borrow the tape and gain access to the room and VCR. Shelia will report any abuse to me by email if it infringes on the ability of other students to use the tape.