



Ethics Bowl

General Information

The Ethics Bowl is a national moral and civic education program. It promotes respectful, supportive, and in-depth discussion of ethics among students nationwide through collaboration and respectful competition.

Created over thirty years ago in a college classroom, the Ethics Bowl began as the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl in 1993 and was adapted for the National High School Ethics Bowl in 2012. The Middle School Ethics Bowl launched in 2019. Classroom Ethics Bowls in grades 4 and up began in 2022. The Ethics Bowl now involves thousands of students – in colleges, high schools, middle, and elementary schools – across the country and the world.

The Ethics Bowl is a collaborative yet competitive event. Teams are evaluated on their ability to engage in rigorous and deep ethical discussion while engaging respectfully and supportively with all participants.

The Ethics Bowl:

- Encourages civil, constructive dialogue rather than combative debate
- Develops students' awareness of the ethical dimensions of their decisions
- Furthers students' abilities to reflect thoughtfully about their values, points of view, and moral decisions

HOW IT WORKS

The Ethics Bowl format involves a structured, conversational dialogue. In an Ethics Bowl match, teams analyze cases about complex ethical dilemmas and respond to questions, ideas, and comments from the other team and questions from a panel of judges.

An Ethics Bowl differs from a debate competition in that students are not assigned opposing views. They defend whichever position they think is correct, can agree with the other team, can change their minds, and are able to think collaboratively about the case.

GENERAL FORMAT

1. Team A presents their view of the case
2. Team B presents their view of the case
3. The teams engage in an open dialogue
4. Judges Q&A