

2021-2022 Middle School Ethics Bowl Case Set

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<https://sites.google.com/a/kentplace.org/new-jersey-middle-school-ethics-bowl/>

Cases Written by the Writing Committee:

Claire Cherill (8th grade student), Oliver Walker (8th grade student), Ed Solecki (teacher), Erik Kenyon (teacher), Barbara Ruth Cohn (graduate student), Maria Camila Castro Maldonado (graduate student) and Ariel Sykes (teacher)

And edited for final approval by the Middle School Ethics Bowl Executive Committee:

Karen Rezach, Roberta Israeloff, Deric Barber, Dustin Webster, and Ariel Sykes

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Case #5: Career Choice

Alex, a junior in college, has always earned good grades and is beginning to think seriously about her career. As long as she can remember she was interested in how things work, and because of this, she has always assumed that she will become an engineer. Her parents support this career path and have made financial sacrifices so she can go to college. They are so proud of her: she will be the first person in her family to attend college and plan to go on to graduate school.

However, over the course of her junior year, Alex becomes increasingly aware of the problems presented by climate change. Some of her friends want to become activists for this cause – to join organizations that lobby for new legislation that counteracts the warming planet. Alex is considering becoming an activist as well. Working to help save the earth would certainly be meaningful and fulfilling, even if it is not as lucrative or prestigious as becoming an engineer. Her parents promise to support her no matter what she decides to do, but she also knows that they will be disappointed if she didn't pursue her graduate engineering degree.

Alex was planning to apply to the Yale School of Engineering; the deadline is fast approaching.

Match Question: What should Alex do and why?

Study Questions:

1. Is it selfish to make a decision based on personal interest rather than the common good?
2. Is the happiness of an individual more important than the well-being of a group?
3. How does Alex weigh her responsibility to her parents and family, if at all?