

2022-2023 Middle School Ethics Bowl Case Set

To learn more about this event, please visit:

<https://www.ethicsatkentplace.org/student-programs/middle-school-ethics-bowl>

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Case 6: Friendship Ties

Dave and Hector met through school sports and played together in town leagues throughout their elementary school years. Their parents are close friends and the boys spend a lot of time at each other's houses. The Covid-19 pandemic hit when Dave and Hector started middle school. They both felt isolated at home and were able to convince their parents to let them use their tablets to play games and video chat together. This way, they could hang out together and still be safe.

Right before the start of eighth grade, when schools reopened and everyone could start hanging out together, Hector and his family moved out of state. The two friends still play games online together and message each other on their tablets. Recently, Dave feels torn about how he spends his time after school. He wants to start playing team sports again and to hang out with new friends in person. This makes it hard for Dave to find time to hangout virtually with Hector. Since Hector is having trouble making friends in his new town and is feeling very lonely, he has asked Dave to hangout online with him almost everyday. Although Dave wants to remain friends with Hector, he is also tired of "being online all the time."

One Friday, Hector asks Dave to watch Netflix together online. Dave was also invited to go to the movies with his new group of friends that Friday. Given house rules and his other commitments, Dave can only watch one movie this weekend.

Match Question: Who should Dave choose to hang out with this Friday?

Study Questions:

1. How should we respond to the demands of his old and new friendships?
2. When, if ever, is it ethical to let go of a friendship ?
3. Does the way in which we spend time with friends matter?