

## **2023-2024 Middle School Ethics Bowl Case Set**

To learn more about this event, please visit:

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

### **Cases Written by the Writing Committee:**

Aaden Ray (student), Addie Kostin (student), Ayushi Wadhwa (student),  
Claire Cherill (student), Erik Kenyon (committee member), Katie MacKay  
(student), Matt Ferguson (committee member), Mike Britt (teacher), Nicholas  
Machado (teacher), Oliver Walker (student), Sally Zeiner (teacher),  
and Sonia Nikhil (student)

**And edited for final approval by the Middle School Ethics Bowl**

### **Executive Committee:**

Ariel Sykes, Deric Barber, Dustin Webster, Erik Kenyon, Karen Rezach, Matt  
Ferguson, and Roberta Israeloff

## Case 4: Running in Ramadan

Aurora lives in Virginia and is currently thriving in her junior year of high school. She is especially successful in track and field. A few days ago, her coach informed her that a talent scout from a local college will be attending a meet on March 23. Her coach thinks that Aurora has a good chance of securing an athletic scholarship. This meet is also a pivotal competition on the team's pathway to the championships. Aurora's high school has not won the state championships in 43 years. With Aurora competing, her coach is confident that the team has a chance to win.

Aurora is a Muslim. During the month of Ramadan, everyone in her community fasts from the time the sun rises until it sets unless they are physically unable to do so. Aurora is passionate about her religion and has fasted during Ramadan for the last four years. However, the upcoming track meet will take place two weeks into this year's fast.

Aurora is worried. She knows that if she competes while fasting, she will not be able to perform at her highest level. She may not even finish the competition! This would mean losing her chance at an athletic scholarship. It would also mean letting down her teammates and, especially, her coach.

But at the same time, Aurora doesn't want to let her religious community down either. She knows that the community would not consider needing to compete in a track meet a valid reason to break the fast. Aurora's religious community is important to her, and she does not want to disappoint them, or her family.

Aurora is torn between her competing commitments to her religion and spiritual community, and her commitments to her track team and her own academic future.

**Match Questions:** Should Aurora continue fasting or break the fast to participate in her meet?

### Study Questions

1. How do we prioritize when our community's values and our personal aspirations conflict?
2. To what extent should a minority group conform to the expectations of the majority?
3. To what extent should a majority group accommodate practices of a minority?
4. How should individuals navigate competing demands between religious and secular society?