

## **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>

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### Case 3: Summer Engagements

Keisha is a rising high school sophomore. Her family has owned a daily newspaper in a moderately sized town for three generations. The paper covers local news and is a staple of the community. Keisha works there when needed and has always been a huge help. She also gets paid, which is a nice bonus.

Keisha doesn't mind working at the newspaper, but her real passion is the theater. She has auditioned for her school musicals since she was in middle school. Her teachers have always seen her potential and gone out of their way to support her. With her English teacher's help, Keisha applied for a summer internship as assistant to the director of a local semi-professional theater. Over 100 people applied, but Keisha was one of four chosen. She is really excited and thinks that this internship could be a stepping stone on the way to a future career in the theater.

Although Keisha's parents value her passion for theater, they really need her help this summer. The paper has been losing employees to national online news sources that pay twice as much as the family's paper due to their wide platform. The family's newspaper is now short-staffed which puts more of a strain on the remaining employees. As a result, each edition - which has become part of so many people's morning routine - is now drastically shorter. With less to read in the local paper, readers are increasingly turning to national, online platforms for their news. As subscribers cancel their subscriptions, Keisha's family is finding it harder to sell ads. If this cycle continues, Keisha's parents will eventually be forced to shut down the paper. The prospect of losing Keisha's help strikes them as the "last straw" at a very stressful time.

Keisha is torn. She knows that her working at the newspaper will reduce the strain on employees and help stabilize the organization. But she doubts how much of a difference she can make. The internship would be a dream come true and could be the key to a future career. But she feels terrible about abandoning her family when they need her the most.

**Match Question:** Which summer engagement should Keisha commit to? Why?

#### Study Questions

1. How can we weigh family obligations against personal opportunities?
2. Does Keisha have an obligation to her local community to continue with the paper?
3. When we choose to pursue our own opportunities, can it affect our family relationships?