

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>

Cases Written by the Writing Committee:

Ayushi Wadhwa (middle school student), Ben Who (high school student),
Claire Cherill (high school student), John Rockwell (middle school teacher),
Juliet Schwartz (high school student), Matt Ferguson (committee
member), and Sonia Nikhil (middle school 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, Michael Vazquez, and Roberta Israeloff

Case 5: The Dress Dilemma

In a couple of weeks, Danielle will have her sweet sixteen birthday party. She has planned what will happen every minute and selected every small decoration. But, she still needed to pick out her dress!

Danielle finds two perfect dresses and can't choose between them. The red dress she likes is on sale at Justine's Boutique, a local family-owned business; and the other, a purple dress, is from a large chain store. The red dress from Justine's is more expensive but seems to be better quality than the purple dress which is just as elegant though not as well-made. Danielle is drawn to the red dress for several reasons. She loves the idea of supporting a small business -- especially because her family owns a small, local bakery. And the well-made dress will last longer than the cheaper purple one. But, Danielle is still conflicted. She wonders if she will ever have the occasion to wear the dress again -- and if not, she doesn't think she can justify spending a lot on a dress. Danielle also knows that her parents are already spending a lot of money for the party and she worries that buying the purple dress will put less financial strain on the family.

Match Question: Which dress should Danielle purchase?

Study Questions:

1. What priorities are Danielle trying to navigate in this case?
2. Should the importance of the event matter?
3. What types of things should you consider before purchasing a clothing item?