

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/>

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Case #1: The Mischarging Mishap

Evan is shopping at a local grocery store that he frequents. It is a small family-owned business that has struggled to stay open during the Covid-19 pandemic. Although the store charges slightly more than the larger chain grocery stores, Evan doesn't mind. He feels strongly that, as a member of the community, he should help support local businesses.

His parents are coming for a weekend visit, and he wants to host them as generously as possible. Because of this, his shopping list is longer than usual. He's on a tight budget now, so he plans to buy generic rather than brand goods and makes sure to bring his coupons with him when he leaves for the grocery store.

At check out, Evan presents the coupon for a 25% discount on a single item. The cashier accidentally applies it to the entire order. Evan doesn't realize the mistake until he gets home and sees that his grocery bill totaled only \$150 instead of \$200.

At first he's grateful to have the extra money – he can use it to pay his overdue cell phone bill. But then he wonders what will happen at the store. Will the cashier be responsible to make up the \$50 they undercharged Evan? How will the store make up for the lost revenue? He isn't sure what to do.

Match Question: What, if anything, should Evan do when he realizes the mistake? Why?

Study Questions:

1. Would it make a difference if Evan was charged \$50 more instead of being charged \$50 less?
2. Does it matter that the store is a family-owned business as opposed to a big, national chain, like Target?
3. Is there a difference between getting money by accident and stealing money?