

2026-2027 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 2: Who Really Created Your Homework?

Recently, Pleasant Valley Middle School created a policy about AI use. Students are now prohibited from using any form of generative AI, and student access to generative AI platforms has been blocked on school-issued laptops. Issues arise when Kristin, a student, notices that homework packets from her history class appear to be generated by Gemini AI. They use similar formatting and sentence structure along with Gemini watermarks on photos and diagrams. Kristin consults the school policy, readily available online, and finds that none of the rules against generative AI applies to teachers.

Kristin feels that the policy is unfair and brings her concerns to a monthly school board meeting. She questions why students are prohibited from using AI to complete their work while teachers are permitted to use it to create assignments. She argues that both teachers and students have demanding schedules, and that a teacher's job is to create materials tailored to their particular students' needs. Kristin thinks that using homework assignments created by generative AI negatively affect students' learning experiences and undermines teachers' roles. Some board members agree with Kristin and think that a harmful double standard is in place.

Dr. Jones, a recently retired history teacher and board member, views the situation differently. During her years in the classroom, she regularly spent her evenings grading assignments, planning lessons, and creating worksheets. She was also raising two children at the time and recalls how difficult it was to balance her home and work lives. AI would have helped her achieve more work-life balance. Teachers who use AI to create homework packets also can spend more time grading assignments, return student work more quickly, and build relationships with students. She argues that since teachers already have expertise in the subjects they teach, AI is a convenience and doesn't compromise their learning as it would students who use AI to speed through their work.

The school board is seriously divided.

Match Questions

1. How, if at all, should Pleasant Valley amend its AI use policy to make it more equitable? Why?
2. Should teachers create classroom materials themselves, given that generative AI can produce materials of equal quality in significantly less time? Why or why not?

Study Questions

1. What is the role of relationships in education? How might the use of generative AI by teachers and by students impact these relationships?
2. What is the value of individuals' time and effort in a school context? Does this differ for students and for teachers?