

Ethical Dilemma: Project Instructions

Selection Due Sunday of Week 2 at 11:59PM Central

Outline Due Sunday of Week 6 at 11:59PM Central

Presentation Due Sunday of Week 10 at 11:59PM Central

Vote Due Thursday of Week 11 at 11:59PM Central

DISCLAIMER WARNING: This is an academic assignment being carried out as a course requirement at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

You are not to do anything which could be considered illegal, malicious, unethical, or harmful. Do not use any surreptitious or unscrupulous means to gather information for your project. This is an open source intelligence (OSINT) and research gathering project. Please do not photograph, record, or make unofficial entry into any location considered to be critical infrastructure, or otherwise sensitive in nature. If you want photos, recordings, or other information involving critical infrastructure, search for the information in the public domain. Do not take any action which could be considered suspicious or illegal, or which could subject you to criminal investigation and prosecution. Use common sense.

Objectives:

One of the goals of this course is for students to understand ethical issues frequently encountered in the criminal justice system. We study ethics because criminal justice is uniquely involved in discretion and coercion, which means that there are many ways to abuse such power. Clearly understanding one's ethical decision-making system and problem-solving skills can help prevent misconduct or otherwise bad choices. This project is designed using the CRJ 100 Course Competencies to ensure students are able to successfully complete the following tasks:

6. Evaluate ethical and legal considerations with the criminal justice system
 - 6.1. Illustrate why professionals are motivated to commit ethical violations
 - 6.2. Establish the importance of professionalism in the area of criminal justice

The project will require you to think more deeply about the ethical systems that currently guide your behavior, ethical systems that you may wish to consider, and ethical systems that you can more quickly identify when being used by others. Learning and applying problem-solving skills will allow you to become more confident in your decision-making.

How do you know there is a problem? Sometimes, there is a dashboard warning light blinking at us – we may not be in the driver's seat, but we can still sense the trouble. Once we know what to look for – that warning light – we can better decide next steps. In the criminal justice field, various professionals make countless life-altering decisions on a daily basis. It is challenging, at times, to figure out what the right thing to do is. So, just what is an ethical dilemma? It is a situation "in which it is difficult to make a decision, either because the right course of action is not always clear or the right course of action carries some negative consequence" (Pollock, 2014, p. 15). Remember, an unethical or immoral behavior is an "act[s] that are human and of free will that affects others" (Pollock, 2014, p.11). One of the most important elements of critical thinking is ". . . concepts and identifying underlying assumptions" (Pollock, 2014, p. 16). Research indicates that practicing our ethical decision-making systems and problem-solving skills makes us less likely to engage in professional misconduct.

Selection:

(5 points)

You will research one ethical misdeed by an individual or an agency of the criminal justice system which occurred within the past year (or has YET to be completed or to occur) – the dilemma can be inspired by the list below, but NOT the same incident. You will want to research not only your dilemma, possibly from more than one source, but also your ethical system to provide you with additional guidance. Use the course Ethical Systems Handout to begin your search for ethical systems.

It may be most interesting to you to find an incident near you geographically, or perhaps in your professional interest area. As you will come to realize, behaviors that may possibly be judged as unethical are acts involving citizens, other employees, involving one's organization, or involving those one supervises (Pollock, 2014, p. 14). Additionally, understand that sometimes you may not "know" all of the information required, so you will need to be clear in your presentation about what is known and what is unknown (and so you hypothesize, guess, estimate, or suggest what could happen or did happen).

To get some ideas, begin by reviewing the following ethical dilemmas in your textbook:

- Chap 1, p. 11, Matter of Ethics (MOE) "Lies that Convicted the Innocent"
- Chap 2, p. 45, MOE, "Ethical Issues When dealing with Treatment of Offenders or Victims"
- Chap 3, p. 83, MOE, "Revising the *DSM*"
- Chap 4, MOE, "When is Right to Do the Wrong Thing"
- Chap 5, p. 167, MOE, "Department of Justice Investigation of Ferguson"

- Chap 6 (none)
- Chap 7, p. 226, MOE "False Confessions"
- Chap 8, p. 266, MOE, "Expert Witnesses"
- Chap 9, p. 294, MOE, "A Jury of Your Peers?"
- Chap 10, p. 315, MOE, "When is a Mandatory Minimum Sentence Unjust?"
- Chap 11, p. 354, MOE, "Private Prisons"
- Chap 12, p. 379, MOE, "Prisoners as Research Subjects"
- Chap 13, p. 414, MOE, "Relationships between Correctional Personnel and Offenders"
- Chap 14, p. 461, MOE, "When a Survivor Wants to Meet the Offender"
- Chap 15, p. 480, MOE, "Policing the Schools"
- Chap 16, p. 518, MOE, "Airport Security Technology in the US"

Selections are made on a first-come, first serve basis. **Your Selection will be due by Sunday of Week 2.** Create a thread in "Ethical Dilemma Project: Selection" **discussion board.** The name of the organization/individual you have chosen should be in the subject line of your post. There should be no duplicate selections. If a classmate has already selected that organization/individual, it is no longer available. Let's try to find ethical dilemmas across the main components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, corrections).

Outline:

(35 points)

You will use the outline provided in the Ethical Dilemma Project folder to guide you. **Do not change the outline.** This is not a "paper" and should not be submitted in a research narrative format. Your outline and presentation will utilize a five-step solution to clarify dilemmas and lead to decision-making:

1. Identify the facts;
2. Identify the relevant values and concepts;
3. Identify all the possible dilemmas for each party;
4. Decide the most immediate moral or ethical issue facing the individual; and
5. Resolve the dilemma by utilizing an ethical system (Pollock, 2014, p. 16-17).

Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation is expected. Please explain your answers. Answers should be presented in complete sentences. One-word answers and answers without explanation will result in a lower grade. Answers such as "no", "yes", "none", or N/A will not be accepted. A minimum of five (5) sources will need to be cited properly in a References list in APA format or your outline will not be graded. Websites with questionable reliability (e.g., Wikipedia, howthingswork.com, e-how.com, history.com, etc.) are not scholarly in nature and may not be used as cited references.

Your Outline will be due by Sunday of Week 6. The outline must be submitted as a Word document attachment in the “Ethical Dilemma Project: Outline” **assignment**. Under no circumstances should you copy any text from a source and present it as your own words. Please use the following table as a guide to avoid plagiarism and/or cheating:

Acceptable	Cheating
Including a brief quote from a web page with the source cited.	Copying entire pages or paragraphs and republishing it as your own.
Using graphics from a free clip art or graphic site.	Using someone else’s graphics without permission.
Discussing an assignment with another student.	Copying another student’s work or file.
Looking at online sources or asking for a classmate’s help to figure out what to do.	Duplicating a classmate’s answers as your own, without performing the research or writing activity yourself.

Presentation: (50 points)

You will create a presentation of your chosen ethical incident with narration (audio) for your peers to review. It should be interesting and informative.

PowerPoint is the required format for the presentation, with audio/narration, (optionally with video) and it should NOT be saved on any public websites. Use the provided PowerPoint template with the same opening and closing disclaimer slides. Do not change the design of the opening and closing disclaimer slides. Feel free to adjust the design of the slides between the disclaimer slides that contain your presentation content. If you also choose to create and use your own video, you will need to read the provided disclaimer statement from the PowerPoint template at the beginning and end of the video. Any video you make for the presentation will need to be uploaded through Blackboard to Kaltura, DMACC’s private video server (it should not be saved on any public websites).

The PowerPoint should not exceed 15 slides, not including the two disclaimer slides. (Death by PowerPoint is discouraged!) Include interesting graphics, images, and/or videos to support and enhance your presentation (see links above for great tips!).

All the topical areas from your outline *must* be included in summary form within your presentation. Your presentation must likewise include at least five (5) scholarly research sources in APA format in a References section at the end of the presentation. Presentations will be graded on content, mechanics (e.g., spelling, typos, grammar,

APA format), and graphic design. Please see the grading rubric for details. Follow the [APA citation style](#) for your References slide. Review this [PowerPoint Presentation guide](#). It has great tips!

The presentation PowerPoint must be submitted in the "Ethical Dilemma Project: Presentation" **discussion board** as an attachment, optionally including the Kaltura Mashup for your video. Type *your own name* in the subject line of your post. **Your Presentation will be due by Sunday of Week 10.**

Vote: (5 points)

Each of you will be required to go into all of your classmates' discussion board threads and view their presentations. You will have less than one week to accomplish this task. I strongly encourage you to offer feedback on each of them, as I am sure you will also appreciate feedback.

After you review each of the presentations, you will vote for the person you believe did the best job overall, based on the content and delivery of his/her presentation. **Your Vote will be due by Thursday of Week 11.** Your vote must be submitted as an entry in the "Ethical Dilemma Project: Presentation Vote" **journal**. This vote will be confidential between you and the instructor. The student who receives the most votes will be awarded extra credit. In the event of a tie, each winning student will be awarded extra credit.

Grading Recap:

Your project will be graded on content as well as grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A grading rubric is provided for guidance. Use APA citations when directed and include a References list at the end in proper APA format. You are required to use a minimum of five (5) scholarly research sources for the outline and presentation. If required components are missing, your project will not be graded.

Project Part	Points Possible
Selection	5 points
Outline	35 points
Presentation	50 points
Vote	5 points
Total	95 points