# Ethical Dilemma Project: Outline

**Please reference the Project Instructions and grading rubric before completing this outline. Be sure to answer each question with one or more complete sentences. Each question is applicable to this assignment and the use of “N/A” or “none” is not an acceptable answer. *Do not change the outline.* Explain or describe your answers as if you were giving a briefing to your class about this dilemma.**

## Task

To prepare for your class presentation project, construct a descriptive briefing on an ethical dilemma by a criminal justice professional by researching the specific questions listed in this outline.

An ethical dilemma is a “situation in which one person must make a decision about what to do” (Pollock, 2014, p. 15). Morals refer to what is judged as good conduct. Ethics refers to the study and analysis of what constitutes good or bad conduct, while values are statements of worth or importance. Duties are obligatory acts (by law, practice, or morals) (Pollock, 2014, p. 20).

## Background – Dilemma Selection (5 points)

1. Describe the ethical dilemma or incident – which either HAS happened or has yet to be completed. Be specific and provide answers to the Ws (Who, What, Where, When, and also maybe How).   
   Click & type
2. Provide the website (include the actual URL link) to the dilemma or incident and report where you found it.   
   Click & type
3. Define the terms “morals” and “ethics” and provide your source.   
   Click & type
4. Explain why you selected this dilemma.   
   Click & type
5. How does this dilemma relate to the course – what chapter or resource?   
   Click & type

## Step 1: Identify the facts (5 points)

1. Review the scenario and concisely share the facts. Remember, facts are capable of scientific proof. They are not opinions or values.   
   Click & type

## Step 2: Identify Relevant Values/Concepts (5 points)

Values are defined as elements of desirability, worth, or importance. Individual values form value systems. Behavior is generally consistent with values. All people prioritize certain things that they consider important in life. Some values include: achievement, altruism, autonomy, creativity, emotional well-being, duty, family, freedom, health, honesty, knowledge, justice, life, loyalty, physical appearance, pleasure, power, privacy, recognition, religious faith, service, skill, wealth, wisdom, and others.

Values and concepts are things that cannot be proven empirically but are relevant to the issue at hand. Values imply a choice or judgement (Pollock, 2014, p. 10).

1. Identify relevant values, from perspectives of all of the parties to the dilemma. Click & type
2. Identify relevant concepts, from perspectives of all the parties to the dilemma.   
   Click & type

## Step 3: Identify all possible dilemmas for each party (5 points)

This can help us see that sometimes one’s own or ethical dilemma is caused by others’ actions. “For example, a police officer’s ethical dilemma when faced with the wrongdoing of a fellow officer is a direct result of that other officer making a bad choice” (Pollock, 2012, p. 17).

1. Identify possible dilemmas for one party.   
   Click & type
2. Identify possible dilemmas for another party (should be at least two perspectives).   
   Click & type

## Step 4: Decide most immediate ethical issue (5 points)

This is always a behavior choice not an opinion. This could be past tense (what has happened) or future tense (what will happen) for the dilemma.

1. Explain what the most immediate ethical issue is.   
   Click & type
2. Describe the criteria that you used to determine what was the most immediate (or most important) ethical issue.   
   Click & type

## Step 5: Resolve the dilemma by using an ethical system (5 points)

“Ethical systems are the source of moral beliefs, the underlying premises from which you make judgements, and they are beyond argument” (Pollock 2014, p.25). We often do not think of ethical systems, but we use them to make judgements, and then can come up with rules of behavior that underlie the judgement.

Explain how the dilemma was resolved (if it occurred in the past, and you may have to “guess” what ethical system was used) or how it should be resolved (if it has not yet occurred).

1. Review the Ethical Systems Handout to begin your analysis. Choose at least one to apply here.   
   Click & type
2. Choose a second ethical system and apply it here.   
   Click & type
3. Choose a third ethical system and apply it here.   
   Click & type
4. Discuss why criminal justice professionals may act in unethical ways.   
   Click & type
5. What is does it mean to be an ethical professional and why is it important in the criminal justice field?   
   Click & type

## References[[1]](#footnote-1) – (5 points)

You should select three of the ethical systems from the handout (or others that you find), and those ethical systems should be the basis of your research. In other words, you will want to find a variety of sources that help you understand those ethical systems.

For example, if you are interested in applying utilitarianism, or consequential moral reasoning, you could use a source from our class content:

Harvard University. (2009, September 4). *Justice: What’s the right thing to do?* *Episode 01 “The moral side of murder*. [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBdfcR-8hEY

Remember, the [DMACC Library](https://dmacc.edu/library/Pages/welcome.aspx) is always online and always open. Start your research with the [Research Basics page](https://libguides.dmacc.edu/researchbasics). There are many resources available at your fingertips.

**Find and use a minimum of five quality, academic sources and list them in APA format.**

Click & type

1. REMINDER: Please remember that Wikipedia and other similar sites provide summaries of information, which are not suitable as research citations and references. This type of information is similar to the legal concept of hearsay and is not reliable. Research is based on the original source of the information, and not a third party’s summary of it. It is okay to use Wikipedia to find additional resources for your assignment (e.g., look at the list of sources at the bottom of the Wiki article), but Wikipedia itself should not be used as a reference for cited sources. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)