



Bethel's R.E.A.L. Experience Skills & Sample Artifacts

Skill: Ethical Reasoning & Decision Making

Definition

An individual developing the skills of ethical reasoning and decision making infers about right and wrong human conduct. The individual is able to assess their own ethical values and the social context of the problems, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, think about how different ethical perspectives might be applied to ethical dilemmas and consider the ramifications of alternative actions. Students' ethical self identity evolves as they practice ethical decision-making skills and learn how to describe and analyze positions on ethical issues.

Association of American Colleges and Universities. (2009). *Ethical reasoning VALUE Rubric*. Retrieved from <https://www.aacu.org/ethical-reasoning-value-rubric>

Indicators

1. Considers the moral implications of reasoning and actions even if no one else knows
2. Understands nuance in approaching an ethical outcome from various perspectives

Examples

- In an Ethics class, I thought through with fellow classmates the moral implications of new developments in medical technology.
- I participated in a "Fast Food Analysis" for Organizational Communications where we visited multiple fast food restaurants to watch and analyze management strategies and environmental messages. We then compared our observations with the company's values as listed on their website.
- Because I see the value of intentional community, I choose to abide by Bethel's Covenant of Life Together even though I wouldn't normally hold all of the same boundaries for myself if I weren't a part of Bethel's community.

Want to see an example of how a real Bethel student developed skills in ethical reasoning and decision making? Check out [Micah Latty's paper, "Welcoming Silence"](#), shown here representing the Elie Wiesel Foundation Prize in Ethics Essay Contest.