

Ethics-in-Action Self-Quiz:

How to Make a Good Decision

Should I cheat on an exam or assignment? Look the other way when I see someone being bullied? Spread negative things about people through texting, Facebook, gossip, etc.? Go to a party that I know my parents wouldn't approve of? Engage in risky behavior (sex, drugs, drinking)? **Would my action pass these tests:**

- 1. BEST SELF TEST:** Does this action represent my "best self"? Does it reflect the kind of person I want to be?
- 2. UNIVERSAL ETHICAL VALUES TEST:** Does this action violate any ethical values—such as integrity, respect, fairness, or kindness—that all people should live by?
- 3. CONSEQUENCES TEST:** Will this have negative consequences—hurtful to someone else or myself—that I will come to regret?
- 4. CONSCIENCE TEST:** Does this go against what my conscience tells me is right? If I do this, will I feel guilty or lose self-respect?
- 5. PARENT/TEACHER/COACH TEST:** If I were to ask my parents, teachers, coaches, or any other adults I respect, would they approve of my doing this?
- 6. GOLDEN RULE (REVERSIBILITY) TEST:** Would I want someone to do this to me?
- 7. WHAT-IF-EVERYBODY-DID-THIS TEST:** Would I want to live in a world where everybody did this (lied, cheated, stole, disrespected or used others, etc.)?
- 8. TRUTH TEST:** Am I telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth—no lies, no omissions, and no half-truths?
- 9. INTERNET TEST:** Would I want this made public through Facebook, You-Tube, texting, etc., and seen by my teachers, parents, employers, or future spouse?
- 10. RELIGION TEST:** If I have religious beliefs, what do they teach about whether this action is right or wrong?

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