



ACTIVITY

Ethical dilemmas

CHOOSE THE ETHICAL DILEMMA STORY

Ethical dilemma – SPORT

CONTEXT

Your team Panem (a football team, a basketball team, a volleyball team...) is winning against the opponent, Circenses.

STEP 1

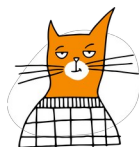
During the break (half time, period end, end of set...) your coach asks the whole team to lose the match, declaring that he has already made an agreement with the Circenses coach.

- How do you behave?
- How do you think the other members of your Panem team will behave?

STEP 2

Your sister / brother / best friend is actually playing in the rival team, Circenses. Panem's victory adds nothing to the rankings, while Circenses's victory would prevent their relegation. You know that the person you care about would be very sorry in case of defeat.

- Would anything change in your behaviour?



STEP 3

You have the chance to win the 'top scorer of the year' by scoring a goal or few more points. You perceive the coach's request as direct damage to you.

- How do you behave?

STEP 4

Circenses' victory would mean relegation for Populus, a team that would be unfairly and undeservedly damaged by this alliance. However, your team has unfinished business with Populus, because Populus defeated Panem in a terrible match in the past.

- How do you behave?
- How do you think your team should behave?

Ethical dilemma – SCHOOL

CONTEXT

You are a 17-year-old teenager going to school.

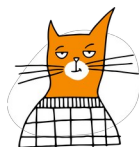
STEP 1

During the maths test, you see Lou asking Alex to pass them the result of an equation. It happens without the teacher noticing.

- What do you do?

STEP 2.1

You know that Lou does not ask Alex out of genuine friendship, but for money. In fact, Alex proposes charging 20 euros for providing solutions to everyone. And for this reason, you dislike this person very



much.

- What do you do?

STEP 2.2

You know that Lou is violent and a bully: poor Alex is a victim of their bullying. If they do not pass the solution, they will be beaten up. Often, Lou is violent with you too. It may finally be the right time to put an end to Lou's reign of terror.

- What do you do?

STEP 3

The teacher, without understanding the situation, decides to punish Toni, a third student who only happens to be sitting between Lou and Alex. The teacher takes away Toni's homework before they can complete it, causing harm.

- What do you do?

STEP 4

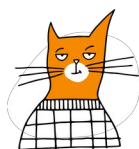
You are in desperate need of the test's solution because you are seriously in trouble : if you fail you will risk getting flunked. It crosses your mind that you could threaten Lou and Alex to tell the teacher everything if they do not pass the equation to you too.

- How would you behave with respect to this thought?

Ethical dilemma – MUSIC

CONTEXT

You have been playing in a band for years: the Pånneskin. Pånneskin is participating in a local audition (organised by your municipality), whose winner will perform in a big music festival. You know that winning that audition could be your big chance to get famous.



STEP 1

Surprisingly, the Cotugnos band wins the audition, even though you consider Cotugnos' performance very lousy. Later, you discover that the mayor's daughter plays in their band.

- What do you do?
- What does your band do?

STEP 2

After the end of the audition, the festival organiser tells you that your band can still perform at the festival, but in a secondary afternoon session for only 15 minutes.

- Would you be happy with this proposal?
- Would you accept? Would your band accept?

STEP 3

If you had won the audition, you would have received a cash prize. This prize is made of public money from the Town Council. That money would have been very useful for your band because it would have permitted you to finally buy the amplifier you needed for so long.

- Adding this element to the reasoning, what do you think? What would your band do?

STEP 4

The festival organiser makes you understand that, if you stay 'quiet and good' now, you will certainly win the next year, regardless of whoever competes.

- What do you choose to do?



Ethical dilemma – UNIVERSITY

CONTEXT

Your professor has asked you to organise a seminar on the topic of your thesis. You are very proud of it and you have prepared the seminar and materials in a very professional and passionate way.

Thanks to good advertising via social networks, many participants are attending, and they proactively contribute to the event, creating a strong climate of collaboration and harmony between them and you.

Your professor is very happy about it, and they tell you that the theme of the seminar will be an integral part of the first-year students' exam and that you will have to take part in their grading.

STEP 1

The students decide to create a discussion group (an instant-messenger) to exchange ideas and keep in touch. They ask you to join it, so you can support them in their work. However, you know that you will also be asked to assess them at the exam.

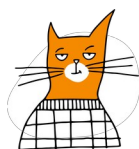
- Do you accept to enter the discussion group or do you refuse it?
- If yes, would you set any conditions?
- Do you make an alternative proposal?

STEP 2

A student who has participated in your seminar has caught your attention: they are very interested and knowledgeable about the topic of the seminar and are also very attractive. They invite you to go out for a drink.

- How would you behave?

(Accept/Propose to go out with other participants of the course → Step 3 / Decline → Step 6)



STEP 3

You went together for a beer in a pub. The meeting was very pleasant. While chatting you find out that you are both single. The next day, you receive a series of messages from them about how lovely the evening was. Later in the evening, in a very informal email, they send you very interesting remarks and proposals for the topics of your seminar, but also inform you that, due to personal problems, they fear they have very little time to prepare for the exam. Specifically, they ask: *'I cannot afford to fail the exam. If I could at least know, in broad terms, what the professor will be asking... How can I do that, do you know?'*, adding a small heart next to the question mark.

- What do you answer?

(You agree to help them → Step 4 / You refuse to help → Step 5)

STEP 4

At university, it is quite obvious to everyone that something more than a friendship has developed between you and this person and you do nothing to hide it. The students talk about it and the news also reaches your professor, who summons you for a meeting. They are immediately disappointed in you, blaming your behaviour as unprofessional. They doubt you are suitable to give seminars and assist them with exams.

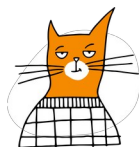
- How do you behave right now?

(After this Step → Step 4.1.)

STEP 4.1.

Your professor has just severely reprimanded you and you leave their room with your tail between your legs, determined to end the relationship even though you really like the person.

Once you are outside the professor's office, you receive a message from the attractive student saying:



'Where are you? I want to make love to you'.

- What do you do?

THE END



STEP 5

At university, it is obvious to everyone that something more than a friendship has developed between you and this person. To put an end to the rumours, you decide to break off all contact, texting them not to see each other 'at least until you pass the exam'. You do not receive any reply.

Suddenly, your professor summons you for a meeting: they are very surprised and disappointed by your behaviour. They know this person very well and they know that they are very talented and that you are working on the same topics. At that point, they whisper to you: *'Don't you know that they are the head of the department's son/daughter? It's no coincidence that they took part in your seminar'*. And they add: *'It will be good for you to learn to play your cards right if you want to have an academic career'*.

- How do you react to this?

STEP 5.1

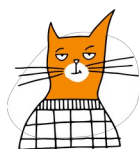
You feel baffled by the words of your professor, because you realise that carrying on the relationship with this person would help you to open many doors, but so far you have always thought that your competence should be the only instrument for a good career. On the other side, you have always publicly boasted that you never had to ask anyone for anything. So, you ask yourself: *'What if this goes wrong? What if I end up being blackmailed in some way? What about my public image?'*

While you are having these thoughts, you receive a message from the attractive student saying: *'Where are you? I want to make love to you'.*

- What do you do?

THE END

STEP 6



The day after, your professor summons you for a meeting: rumours reached them and they know you have declined the invitation of the attractive student. They ask you why you behaved like that and, suddenly, they whisper to you: *'Don't you know that they are the head of the department's son/daughter? It's no coincidence that they took part in your seminar'*. And they add: *'It will be good for you to learn to play your cards right, if you want to have an academic career'*.

- How do you react to this?

THE END

Ethical dilemma – VOLUNTEERING

CONTEXT

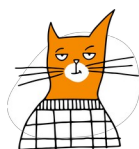
You are the coordinator of '5-W' (We Want a World Without Waste), an association engaged in civic monitoring. '5-W' is the watchdog of your municipality that uses data to check, through a bottom-up approach, that the environment is protected. '5-W' is very well-known and this gives you significant prestige.

STEP 1

Your municipality receives a prize from another association, *'Saturday Fever for Future'*, as 'Best administration committed to the environment'. On the contrary, your association '5-W' has long denounced that the municipality did not pay enough attention to the environment and transparency. However, '5-W' and *'Saturday Fever for Future'* are partners in a lot of European projects, as well as in an Erasmus+ project called 'Environment monitors'.

- How do you behave toward the 'Saturday Fever for Future' association?
- How would your association behave?

STEP 2



Thanks to '5-W' visibility, you know politicians and officials from your municipality, with whom you can create a positive and profitable relationship. Under these good relations, the municipality offers you a collaboration. In this collaboration, you would work entirely in the environmental sector, on the topics that are the subject of your monitoring. This condition makes this offer a great chance for you.

- Would you accept the offer? Under which conditions?
- How would you behave towards your association?

(If you accept the offer → Step 3 / If you decline the offer → Step 4)

STEP 3

You decide to accept the offer. Some of your new colleagues make you understand in strange words that it would be better if you convinced '5-W' to stop monitoring the environment since right now you have become the guarantor from the inside. The mayor's secretary whispers to you in the elevator: *'If they keep monitoring, evidently it means your associates don't trust you'*.

- How would you behave?

STEP 3.1

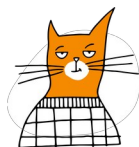
One day, '5-W' detects a situation of bad transparency. Despite numerous requests to the municipality you are working with, not all data can be found online as it should be by law. The person responsible for this omission is a colleague of yours. You are on good terms with them and you also know that they have been recently having a lot of family issues. However, the association asks you to make a public statement reporting this non-compliance.

- How would you behave?

THE END

STEP 4

You decide to decline the offer. Therefore, the same proposal is given to an incompetent person who has no attention to transparency and legality. On social media '5-W' denounces this fact. The mayor is very angry: identifying you with the association, in a public communication, they say that since you have





refused to collaborate with the administration you have no right to complain.

- How would you behave?
- How would your association behave?



STEP 4.1

One day, '5-W' detects a situation of bad transparency: despite many requests to the municipality, not all the data can be found online as it should be by law. The person responsible for this omission is a family member of yours, with whom you are on good terms. The association asks you to make a public statement reporting this non-compliance.

- How would you behave?

THE END

