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Business Ethics Teaching Resources & Approaches

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What we are trying to accomplish with varied tools & techniques...

- Improvements in critical thinking skills:
 - reflective judgment about what to think or do in response to observations, experience and/or decision making opportunities
 - careful reasoning and analysis

- requiring careful analysis before judgments are made
- no clear-cut answers...not being lead down an obvious path
- cognitive skills applied in problem solving and decision making

Fundamental criticism of management education

- "...tendency to focus on the teaching of theory, but not on the application of that theory to practice."
 - D.C. Lane (1995) "On a resurgence of management simulations and games," *The Journal of Operational Research Society.*



Behavioral Simulations...

- collapse time & accelerate learning
- build complexity into decision making
- allow managed conceptions of reality
- simulate actual organizational decision making
- engaging & 'hands on' learning process
- cost effective & easy to implement

Salas, Wildman & Piccolo (2009) "Using Simulation-Based Training to Enhance Management Education," Academy of Management: Learning & Education, Vol. 8, #4.

Ethics Behavioral Simulations

- address organizational ethical decision making process
- create an organizational dilemma and set up a response team of key personnel to respond
- allows students to see what constitutes ethical decision making in the organization
- makes students think about stakeholders & time frames for decisions
- biggest problem: incoming students think organizational ethics is common sense...easy
 - simulations help to dispel that myth



Key Considerations...

- Who are the key stakeholders & what are their stakes?
- What could have been done to prevent the current ethical dilemma?
- What are the key short, mid and long range considerations?
- What are your recommendations & action plan for the CEO?
- Team dynamics & their influence on group decision-making



Why Use Simulations to Teach Ethics

- brings organizational ethics down to a level where students can relate to the decisions
- active learning & engages the student in the process
- students comment positively on the impact of simulations in their course evaluations
- students can see the solutions are not easy or common sense
- allow students to experience diversity in perspective in working through a team solution
- enhances critical thinking skills



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UNM Business Ethics Certificate Program

- designed for professors who are just beginning to teach or considering a business ethics/business & society course
- provides tools, frameworks, cases, simulations, podcasts, debate issues, videos, etc to teach business ethics
- collaborative model for sharing resources
- <u>e-businessethics.com</u>



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS Ethics Quick Test...

- Is the action legal?
- Does it comply with our values?
- If you do it, will you feel bad?
- How will it look in the newspaper?
- If you know it's wrong, don't do it!
- If you're not sure, ask.
- Keep asking until you get an answer.